



***Becoming a beloved community of God where all belong.***  
**Third Sunday of Advent** **December 17, 2023**

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**Prelude:** *Ave Maria* | Franz Schubert, Selected and Edited by Joseph Gahm

**Opening Hymn:** H-438 | *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Gospel Hymn:** H-265 | *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

**Offertory Anthem:** *A Maiden most gentle* | Words: Andrew Carter | Music: French traditional melody, arr. by Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
Ave, ave, ave Maria, Ave, ave, ave Maria.

How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
Ave, etc.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation, and Saviour of all.  
Ave, etc.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare, And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave, etc.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.  
Ave, etc.

**Communion Hymn:** H-268 | *Ye who claim the faith of Jesus*

**Closing Hymn:** H-278 | *Sing we of the blessed Mother*

**Postlude:** *People, Look East* | Tune: BESANCON, a French carol | Arr. for piano by Rudy Davenport

**The Collect/ Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Readings:** [https://lectionarypage.net/YearB\\_RCL/Advent/BAdv3\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Advent/BAdv3_RCL.html)

**Canticle 15: The Song of Mary – Prayed in unison**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rooted In Abundance – If you have not submitted a Giving Estimate for 2024, please do so today. We will dedicate the Giving Estimates today before the Eucharist Prayer.**

**Employee Holiday Gifts** – Please put cash donations (only cash) in the brown envelopes to show your appreciation to our staff, Carolyn and Rev. Beth. You may also Venmo cash to Ruth-Willbanks; last 4 digits of telephone # 1923. Donations will be accepted through the month of December.

**Angel Tree** – Feel free to donate to El Hogar through St. Nicholas' Angel Tree. Make checks payable to St. Nicholas with El Hogar on the memo line.

**Christmas Eve Services:** 10:00 AM – Spoken Eucharist; 4:00 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service; 7:30 PM – Festive Eucharist with Prelude at 7:00 PM

**Lessons and Carols Service:** 10:00 AM – Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.



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