

Hymn 91: *People, look east*

BESANÇON

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant May Christ, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
All **Amen.**



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Church of the Most Holy Martyr

Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields



ADVENT VESPERS at 7:30 pm

December 13, 2015: Third Sunday of Advent

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Hand-candles are lit during the following hymn.

Hymn 14: *O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ* TALLIS' CANON

Thanksgiving

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Officiant Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness.
In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up
by the growing darkness of the night,
you renew your promise to reveal among us
the splendour of your glory,
enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.
Through the prophets
you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.
Through the outpouring of his Spirit,
you open our blindness to the glory of his presence.
Strengthen us in our weakness.
Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will
and free our tongues to sing your praise.
For to you all honour and blessing are due,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

VESPERS

Hymn 89: *O come, O come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

First reading: Amos 9.11-15

Reader A reading from the prophet Amos.

On that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old;
in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,
says the Lord who does this.

Collects

Officiant Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets,
restores your people's life and hope.
Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace,
so that we may hold fast to your great goodness
and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world,
through your Christ who comes among us.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away
the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility, that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

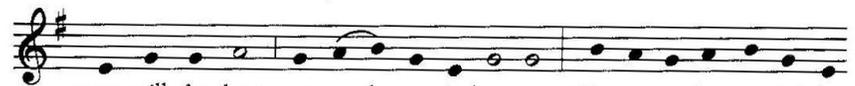
All **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,



All Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come,



your will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly



bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-against us.



Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom,



the pow-er, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for ev-er. A - men.

Leader O Root of Jesse,
ensign of the people and wonder of kings:
comfort all who are sick or in other distress
of body, mind, or spirit,
especially those we name, silently or aloud...
let them know your healing love
in the hands of those who care for them.
O Lord, we pray...

All **Come and deliver us, do not delay.**

Leader O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel;
you open and none may shut;
you shut and none may open:
bring release to captives,
and to all imprisoned by fear and despair.
O Lord, we pray...

All **Come and liberate the prisoners
and those who sit in darkness.**

Leader O Dayspring, brightness of the everlasting light
and sun of justice,
be present with those who are dying;
may they find eternal rest in your presence,
and may all who mourn
find consolation in your promises.
O Lord, we pray...

All **Come and give light to those
in the shadow of death.**

Leader O King of the nations, and their desire;
O Corner-stone and healer of what is divided:
grant peace and reconciliation to the peoples of the earth,
wisdom, generosity, and restraint to the powerful,
and to your Church a spirit of prophecy and truth.
O Lord, we pray...

All **Come and save us, made from the dust of the earth.**

Leader O Emmanuel, King and law-giver, salvation of the peoples:
make ready our hearts for the coming of your Christ,
so that with holy joy
we may help to prepare the way of your kingdom..
O Lord, we pray...

All **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

The time is surely coming, says the Lord,
when the one who ploughs shall overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.
I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
I will plant them upon their land,
and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land that I have given them, says the Lord your God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 101: *Hail to the Lord's anointed*

CRÜGER

Second reading: *Advent Calendar*, Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

Reader God speaks to the world through prophets and poets.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Third reading: John 1.6-13

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Magnificat



MY SOUL proclaims the greatness of the *Lord*,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Sa-viour; /
for he has looked with favour on his löw-ly ser-vant.
FROM THIS day all generations will call me bless-èd: /
the Almighty has done great things for me, and ho-ly is his name.
 HE HAS mercy on those who fear him / in every gë-në-ra-tion.
HE HAS shown the strength of his arm, /
he has scattered the pröud in their con^ceit.
 HE HAS cast down the migh-ty^from their thrones, /
 and has lifted üp thë low-ly.
HE HAS filled the hung-ry^with good things, /
and the rich he has sent ä-wäy emp-ty.
 HE HAS come to the help of his ser-vant^Is-ra-el, /
 for he has remembered his pro-mise öf mer-cy,
THE PRO-mise he made to our fa-thers, /
to Abraham and his child-rën för ev-er.
 GLO-RY to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit: /
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for-äv-ër. A-men.

Reflection: Adam Brown

Apostles' Creed

Officiant **I believe in God,**
All **the Father almighty,**
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Litany

Leader O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High,
 ordering all things mightily:
 be gracious to all who seek you;
 teach us to know you in the beauty of your creation,
 and in the faces of our brothers and sisters.
 O Lord, we pray...
All **Come and teach us your gracious will.**
Leader O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared
 to Moses in the burning bush:
 be with those in need: the poor, the hungry, and the
 homeless;
 refugees, exiles, and all who are oppressed;
 may their lives be transformed by your justice.
 O Lord, we pray...
All **Come and redeem us with outstretched arm.**