

ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3760 Dover Center Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-871-6685

December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist – Rite II – The Word of God

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Hymn #76 On Jordan's Bank

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

All: ***The Lord is our faith and our life.***

Leader: May His love shine in our hearts.

All: ***Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.***

Reader: "But you, O Bethlehem, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be the ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days."

Reader: The second candle we light on the Advent Wreath has been named the **BETHLEHEM CANDLE**, a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ Child. May our hearts be made ready to receive the Good News.

Leader: Let us pray, that we may experience fully the peace of Christ.

Reader: Father in heaven, the day draws near when the birth of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May His quiet coming fill us with true inner peace.
Amen.

Reader: O Prince of Peace, gentle Savior, come! Descend to us as once you entered Bethlehem!

All standing, sing

KYRIE ELEISON

BCP 356

Kyrie eleison, *Christe eleison.*

Kyrie eleison, *Christe eleison.*

Lord, have mercy. *Christ have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy. *Christ have mercy.*

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 211

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The people sit

READING **Isaiah 40:1-11** **Pew Bible 754**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM **85:7-13** **BCP 709**

- ⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord,*
and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- ⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together;*
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- ¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,*
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Psalm Response (sing)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

READING **2 Peter 3:8-15a, 18** **Pew Bible 1277**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL PROCESSION

When this old world drew on toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary,
Blameless mother mild.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

THE HOLY GOSPEL **Mark 1:1-8** **Pew Bible 1045**

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

At your great Name, O Jesus,
Now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

SERMON

Pastor Paul Laursen

NICENE CREED (all standing)

BCP 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP 385, Form 2

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Archbishop Welby; our Presiding Bishop Curry; and our own Bishop Jolly; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Our Father in heaven,

We pray with open hearts and minds to know your will for us.

Reveal to us the initiatives we should take:

For nourishing ourselves with your Word; for supporting each other in Christian fellowship; for taking the Gospel to outside communities; and for loving and serving others in the power of your Spirit. We are grateful for the pastoral encouragement you have provided us in this season. We are grateful for our lay leadership in their shouldering of extra burdens. Lord, we ask that you lay bare the hearts of this congregation, and open each one of us to every new day. Open us to what you have for our future as a new church family in Christ.

Amen.

O Lord, God of our fathers, your Advent people have stood steadfast in the truth of Your Word. We have strived to be the beacon of light in our corner of this world, guiding others to you. We search for the means to stay on this path together. We stand before you crying out to you. We know this battle belongs to You Lord. We cannot do this ourselves. As we walk on the path you have set before us, we sing your praises and give you thanks Lord! We know that you will show us the way. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Then the Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Celebrant

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

PRESENTATION OF ALMS & OBLATIONS

PREPARATION OF ELEMENTS

DOXOLOGY

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise him all creatures here below

Praise him above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus (sing)

O holy, holy, holy Lord,

O God of pow'r God of might!

The heav'ns and earth are filled with Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, our God!
Blessed! Blessed is he who comes
Hosanna in the highest!

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in the last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,*

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

* *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.*

*For those not yet baptized (or for baptized visitors who do not wish to receive the Sacrament), you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms; the priest will be happy to pray a prayer of blessings. * Administration of Communion:*

- Please follow usher's directions to altar rail.

- The consecrated bread is offered with the words,

"The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven." (Amen).

- The chalice and intinction cup are offered with the words,

"The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," (Amen).

* *You may dip your bread in the intinction cup * Intercessory Prayer is available at the back of the Sanctuary.*

COMMUNION Refiners Fire

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Chorus

Refiner's fire

My heart's one desire

Is to be holy

Set apart for You Lord

I choose to be holy

Set apart for You my Master

Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

CCLI Song # 426298

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(said by all)*

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL Hymn #54 Savior of the Nation's Come

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

POSTLUDE