

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

December 14, 2025

10:00 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL #67 Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: May the Lord's love shine in our hearts.

All: ***And may His peace be with us all.***

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.

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

Reader: "And the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child."

Reader: The third candle on the Advent Wreath is called the **SHEPHERD'S CANDLE**. We light one pink candle to remind us of the joy of Christ's coming. We honor the shepherds who were the first to share the Good News. We continue to share the Good News in word and song as we celebrate around our lighted Christmas trees.

Leader: Let us pray, that we may grow in love for each other as the Lord comes to us.

Reader: Father in heaven, may we Your family who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of your love and celebrate His birth with a new sense of love for each other. Amen.

Reader: O Great Shepherd of the sheep, lead us and touch our lips with coals of fire, that we may tell of Your glory!

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 212

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.**

The people sit

READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible 749

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 146:4-9

BCP 803

- ⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
⁵ Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
⁶ Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
⁷ The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
⁸ The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
⁹ The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

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 James 5:7-10

Pew Bible 1232

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION Hymn #60

Creator of the Stars of Night (vs 5)

Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11 Pew Bible 1018

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Creator of the Stars of Night (vs 6)

To God the Father, God the Son,
And the God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

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 389, Form 5

Leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Presiding Bishop Rowe; our own Bishop Jolly; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation (for those who are present, and for those who are absent), that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

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
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:

Celebrant and People

The Sanctus (sing) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. (2Xs)
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. (2Xs)

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 know 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 these 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. **The Great Amen** (sing) ***Amen. Amen. Amen. (2Xs)***

*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 intinction cup is 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 HYMNS

BOB #77 Grace Alone

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 #59 Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

POSTLUDE