

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

January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Rite II - Holy Eucharist - The Word of God

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Hymn #128 We Three Kings

OPENING SALUTATION & RESPONSE

BCP 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All standing, sing

THE GLORIA #96 Angels We Have Heard on High

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 214

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

READING

Isaiah 60:1-6, 9

Pew Bible 779

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72

BCP 685

- ¹ Give the King your justice, O God,*
And your righteousness to the King's Son;
- ² That he may rule your people righteously*
and the poor with justice;

- ³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,*
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people;*
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,*
 from one generation to another.
⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,*
 like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish;*
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
⁸ He shall rule from sea to sea,*
 and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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 Ephesians 3:1-12

Pew Bible 1225

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL PROCESSION

HYMN #115 What Child Is This (v.1)

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible 1008

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

What Child Is This (v.2)

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 388, Form 4

Leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them,
and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY BOB #35 Come and Behold Him

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself
for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

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 A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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.

The Celebrant continues

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation (sing)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again (2Xs)

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

HYMN #109 The First Noel

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 #87 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

POSTLUDE