

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

January 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist – Rite II – The Word of God**

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL BOB #151 Lord I Lift Your Name on High

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

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

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 215

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of

his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

READING **Amos 3:1-8** **Pew Bible 958**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM **139:1-11** **BCP 794**

¹ Lord, you have searched me out and known me;*
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.

² You trace my journeys and my resting-places*
 and are acquainted with all my ways.

³ Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,*
 but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

⁴ You press upon me behind and before*
 and lay your hand upon me.

⁵ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;*
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

⁶ Where can I go then from your Spirit?*
 where can I flee from your presence?

⁷ If I climb up to heaven, you are there;*
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

⁸ If I take the wings of the morning*
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

⁹ Even there your hand will lead me*
 and your right hand hold me fast.

¹⁰ If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me,*
 and the light around me turn to night,”

¹¹ Darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day;*
 darkness and light to you are both alike.

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 **1 Corinthians 1:10-17** **Pew Bible 1193**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION Hymn #304 I Come with Joy

I come with joy to meet my Lord,

Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me.
I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.

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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:12-23 **Pew Bible 1010**

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
Each proud division ends;
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends

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; our Presiding Bishop Rowe; 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.

Let us pray together:

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.

CONFSSION & 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 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

People The Lord be with you.
Celebrant **And also with you.**
People Lift up your hearts.
Celebrant **We lift them to the Lord.**
People 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. (2x_s)
 Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. (2x_s)

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

Lord, I Need You

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 #376 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

POSTLUDE