

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

May 17, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Sunday after Ascension Day
Holy Eucharist – Rite II – The Word of God**

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Hymn BOB #18 Be Exalted, O God

OPENING SALUTATION & RESPONSE

BCP 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 226

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The people sit

READING **Acts 1:1-14** **Pew Bible 1138**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM **Psalm 47** **BCP 650**

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;*
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- ² For the Lord Most High is to be feared;*
he is the great King over all the earth.
- ³ He subdues the peoples under us,*
and the nations under our feet.
- ⁴ He chooses our inheritance for us,*
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,*
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;*
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- ⁷ For God is King of all the earth;*
sing praises with all your skill.
- ⁸ God reigns over the nations;*
God sits upon his holy throne.
- ⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered together*
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- ¹⁰ The rulers of the earth belong to God,*
and he is highly exalted.

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 Peter 4:12-19** **Pew Bible 1273**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL PROCESSION **Come, Thou Fount**

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove

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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 17:1-11 Pew Bible 1132

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

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 own Presiding Bishop Rowe and 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

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.

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 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

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 BOB # 100 I am the Bread of Life

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 #214 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

POSTLUDE

Timeline of Jesus' post-Resurrection Appearances

- Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9–11.
- Appeared to other women leaving the tomb - Matt 28:5–7; Mark 16:5–7; Luke 24:4–8
- Met privately with Peter later on the day of resurrection.
- Road to Emmaus Appearance Luke 24:13-35
- Disciples without Thomas
- The Disciples with Thomas
- Seven Disciples at Sea of Galilee.
- To Over 500 People at one time
- Jesus appeared to his half-brother, James
- Final appearance: to the apostles on the Mount of Olives before ascending to heaven.
- Finally to Paul

Key verses

1 Peter 3:15 NASB But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect.

1 Cor. 15:3-8 For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, & that He was buried, & that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, & that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers & sisters at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; & last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.