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

July 26, 2026 **10:00 a.m.**

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist – Rite II – The Word of God

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL BOB #180 Open The Eyes of my Heart, Lord

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 231**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass

through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The people sit

READING 1 Kings 3:5-12 Pew Bible 351

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

PSALM 119:129-136 BCP 774

129 Your decrees are wonderful;*
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
130 When your word goes forth it gives light;*
it gives understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant;*
I long for your commandments.
132 Turn to me in mercy,*
as you always do to those who love your Name.
133 Steady my footsteps in your word;*
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Rescue me from those who oppress me,*
and I will keep your commandments.
135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant*
and teach me your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears,*
because people do not keep your law.

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 Romans 8:26-39 Pew Bible 1184

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

GOSPEL PROCESSION Let All Mortal Flesh

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

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

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-49a Pew Bible 1022

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

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, for 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

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***.

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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.

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.***

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

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more. *(Refrain)*
Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord of all. *(Refrain)*
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all. *(Refrain)*
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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 #525 The Church's One Foundation

THE DISMISSAL BCP 366

POSTLUDE