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

September 6, 2026 **10:00 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL Take up Your Cross (Handout)

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 233**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 **Ezekiel 33:1-11** **Pew Bible 901**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**.

PSALM **119:33-40** BCP 766

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,*
and I shall keep it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;*
I shall keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments,*
for that is my desire.
36 Incline my heart to your decrees*
and not to unjust gain.
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;*
give me life in your ways.
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
which you make to those who fear you.
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread,*
because your judgments are good.
40 Behold, I long for your commandments;*
in your righteousness preserve my life.

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 12:9-21** **Pew Bible 1189**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL PROCESSION #302 Father, We Thank Thee (v1)

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

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

READING **Matthew 18:15-20** **Pew Bible 1028**

Celebrant *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

GOSPEL PROCESSION #302 Father, We Thank Thee (v2)

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 392, Form 6**

The Leader and People pray responsively#
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence
For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
For our Presiding Bishop Rowe; our own Bishop Jolly; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions
Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.
We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.
We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.
We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.
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.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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 (*sing*)

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.

Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in 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.

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

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 MUSIC In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand
In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ
No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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 #537 Christ for the World We Sing!

THE DISMISSAL BCP 366

POSTLUDE