



*Christ Healing the Blind* – El Greco (1541 – 1614)

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025  
10:00am

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

PRELUDE

*Winchester New*

Malcolm Archer

### ENTRANCE HYMN *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New) (H 76)*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G minor, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with five verses of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a descending line in the first system and a more active line in the second and third systems. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first verse of each system underlined.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant may say*

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.*

## OPENING ANTHEM *EOM1 55 Holy God Trisagion (Proulx) Missa Oecumenica*

*The following is sung, all standing*

Ho - ly God, — Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: *Missa Oecumenica*, from the *Trinitatis Choral Review*, arr. Richard Proulx,  
after Alexander Archangelsky (1846–1924), © 1999 Oregon Catholic Press.  
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## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            And also with you.  
*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 146:4-9**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
  
<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise forever;  
  
<sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.  
  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD shall reign forever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the letter of James.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN *O heavenly Word, eternal Light (O Heiland, reiss)* (H 64)

*All stand.*



1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light, be - got - ten  
2 pour light up - on us from a - bove, and fire our  
3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh the se - crets  
4 O let us not, for e - vil past, be driv - en  
\* 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



1 of the Fa - ther's might, who in these lat - ter days wast  
2 hearts with ar - dent love, that, as we hear thy truth to -  
3 of our hearts to try, to rec - om - pense each hid - den  
4 from thy face at last, but with thy saints for ev - er -  
5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry



1 born for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;  
2 day, all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;  
3 sin and bid the saints their reign be - gin;  
4 more be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.  
5 be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

*All stand.*

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

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **THE HOMILY**

The Rev. Dwight Helt

## **THE CREED**

*All stand.*

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.

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*All remain standing.*

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 [N. our Presiding Bishop, and N. (N.) our Bishop(s); 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.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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.

*The Priest stands and says*

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.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Celebrant says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.  
*Psalm 50:14*

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort*

Johann Wolfgang Franck  
arr. Michael Burkhardt

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne'er in sorrow pine.  
My heart, my soul, yea, all my being, O Jesus trust alone in Thee.  
Thou Prince of Peace, Thou Pearl from heaven, True God, true Man,  
My Morning Star. O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant,  
Thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.  
O Jesus, with Thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind.  
In true humility I welcome Thee, Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.  
My thoughts, desires, and all my longing, I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.  
O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant, Thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.

### Doxology

*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.*

# The Great Thanksgiving

**SURSUM CORDA S 120** *Lift up your hearts*

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant*      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*      *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

## PROPER PREFACE

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

**SANCTUS WLP 851 *Holy, holy, holy* (Burnam)**

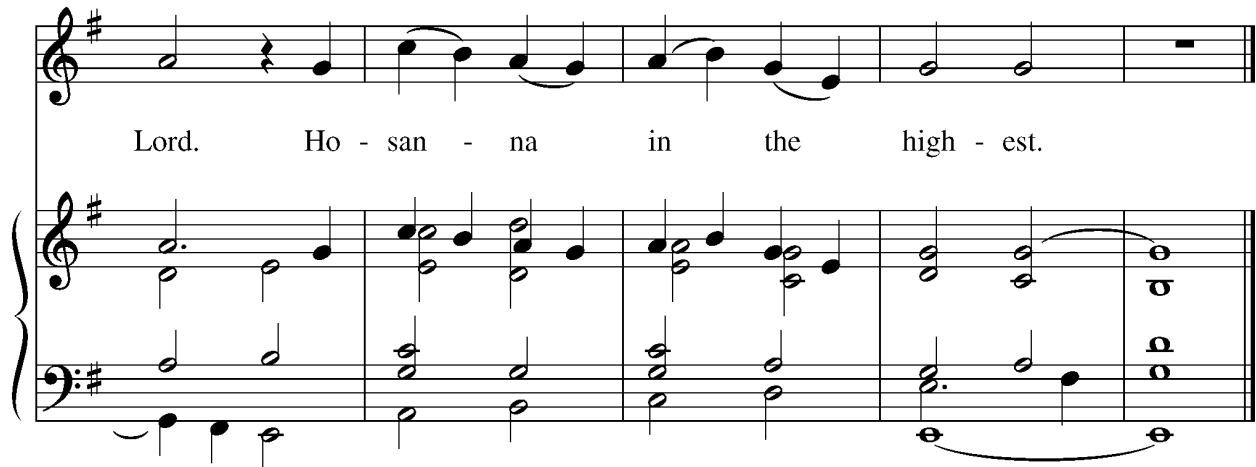
*Celebrant and People*

The musical score is written for a vocal part and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand, including some triplets and a double bar line. The vocal line consists of three staves of music, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the". The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and dynamic markings like "8".

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

## EPICLESIS

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly

country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. *AMEN*.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

### *People and Celebrant*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

### FRACTION ANTHEM *WLP 876 The disciples knew the Lord Jesus (Burnam)*

*Antiphon*

*Cantor, then all*

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing



*Fine Verses*

— of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -  
 2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

*All repeat Antiphon*

ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.  
 ia, for though — ma - ny we share one — bread.

## INVITATION

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

PRE-COMMUNION HYMN *Watchman, tell us of the night (Aberystwyth) (H 640)*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or that hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

*Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

## BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be.  
 Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he*  
 fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN *People, look East (Besançon Carol) WLP724*



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.  
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

Wayne L. Wold