

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.



St. Peter's by-the-Lake

The Very Rev. Carol Mead  
Rector

*Procession into the Church*

*Thou Whose Almighty Word*

**Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray,  
and, where the Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!**

**Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight, heal to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,  
now to all human-kind, let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love, life giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight! Move on the waters' face bearing the gifts of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place, let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,  
wisdom, love, might; boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide, let there be light!**

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant*     Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*        **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant and People*

**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.***

**O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain*      **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

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*The Collect of the Day*

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

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day.

The First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus 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.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
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."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

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;  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.

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

*The Response: Canticle 15*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Epistle: James 5:7-10

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

*Gospel Hymn* *On Jordan's Bank*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.**

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*The Gospel:* Matthew 11:2-11

	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People	<b>Glory to you, Lord Christ.</b>

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.’

“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.”

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

*The Sermon*—The Very Rev. Carol Mead

*The Nicene Creed*

**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—2nd Sunday of Advent*

As we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to prepare our hearts and souls for that gift.

For peace—in our hearts and in the world around us—in the face of disquiet and tumult:  
**Come, O Lord, and calm us.**

For Dorothy our bishop, Carol our priest, and for all who minister in the name of Christ:  
**Come, O Lord, and lead us.**

For the leaders and members of all churches, as we prepare ourselves once again to welcome Christ and to be changed by Christ's presence:  
**Come, O Lord, and sanctify us.**

For the leaders of our nation and in the world, that all recognize the human impact of programs and policies:  
**Come, O Lord, and inspire us.**

For perspective and balance, as we navigate this secular season which intersects with the holy season of Advent:  
**Come, O Lord and steady us.**

For each person in this season of preparation, that we remember that building up the new and transformative often requires sacrificing the old and familiar:  
**Come, O Lord, encourage us.**

For persons undergoing change and transition, to remember that the most difficult endings can ultimately become places of rebirth:  
**Come, O Lord, reassure us.**

For all persons who suffer in body, mind or spirit.  
**Come, O Lord, and heal us.**

*The Confession*

**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 Absolution*

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.*

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

## *Welcome and announcements*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## *Offertory*

## *Presentation of our Gifts*

## *The 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.**

Jimmy Owens/Thomas Ken/Tune: Winchester New (Hymnal #76 "On Jordan's Banks")

## *The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant      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.

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:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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;**

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 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.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Fraction Anthem*

*Coming to the Table*

**Coming to the table spread with the wine, with the bread,  
we remember what he said until he comes.  
We share together with Christ the Lord.**

**Coming to the table spread with the wine, with the bread,  
We remember what he said until he comes.**

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*Communion Hymns*

*Emmanuel*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God in our midst, revealed to us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

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*Christ Be Our Light*

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*refrain:* **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *refrain***

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. *refrain***

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*Taste and See*

**Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
O taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

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*Postcommunion Hymn*

*While We Are Waiting Come*

**While we are waiting come; while we are waiting come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

**Come Savior quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

**With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

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*Postcommunion Prayer*

**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*

*Procession into the World*

*Tell Out My Soul*

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forevermore!**

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*The Dismissal Response*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**