

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 30, 2025      10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II**

*We, at St. Philip's Church strive to love God and love others  
in all we do.*

*Before the service, speak to the Lord;  
During the service, let the Lord speak to you;  
After the service, speak to one another.*

*Please quietly prepare for worship respecting  
those around you who may be praying.*

*Call to Worship – “My Spirit is Longing”*  
*My spirit is longing for you, my God; my spirit is waiting in hope.*  
*My spirit is longing for you my God; my spirit is waiting in hope.*

*Please feel free to join the choir and be seated during the Great Litany.*

*The Great Litany – Refer to separate Bulletin*  
*Cantor – Doug Heckler*

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath*  
*Celebrant: Our King and Savior now draws near.*  
**People: Come, Let us adore Him.**

*Opening Acclamation*

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

*Celebrant: 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. People: Amen.*

## *The Collect of the Day*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (2:1-5)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 122

### *Laetatus sum*

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
**"Let us go to the house of the LORD."**
- 2 Now our feet are standing \*  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
**that is at unity with itself;**
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, \*  
**the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.**
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
**the thrones of the house of David.**
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
**"May they prosper who love you.**
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
**and quietness within your towers.**
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
**I pray for your prosperity.**
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
**I will seek to do you good."**

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (13:11-14)

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Sequence Hymn: “Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor” (#596 v.1-2)*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (24:36-44)

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

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sequence Hymn – “ Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor” (#596 v.3)*

Sermon

Father Bill Pickering

## *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 Peace (Please stand as you are able)*

*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Welcoming*

*Ministry in Focus*

*Collect for the Rector Search Committee*

**Loving God, through the Holy Spirit, guide our search committee in discerning the rector You have called for us. Keep them faithful to Your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Offertory Sentence:* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offering and come into his courts.

### *Offertory*

(Congregation stands and sings the following with the presentation of gifts.)

***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 Liturgy of the Eucharist

### *The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A*

*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.**

*Celebrant:* 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:

### *Celebrant and People (S130)*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* 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:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* 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.

**People: 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!

*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.

### *Communion*

*How to receive Holy Communion:*

*After you receive the bread you may choose one of three options regarding the wine.*

*1. DRINK: Immediately consume your bread and step to the chalice bearer farthest from the priest serving the bread. This is the common cup designated for you to take a drink from.*

*Dipping the bread into this cup is NOT permitted.*

*2. INTINCT: Holding your bread, go to the first chalice bearer who is holding a small glass cup. This cup is designated for intinction (dipping) only. As you stand in front of the chalice bearer, they will offer the words of administration and you may dip your bread into the shallow cup. Please note there is only a small quantity of wine in this chalice to ensure fingers do not touch the wine.*

*3. NO WINE: Immediately consume your bread and carefully walk past both chalices if you desire to not take part in the wine. Please know that receiving communion in one species only is still considered a full and valid communion.*



## *Post Communion 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.**

*Celebrant:* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

**People: Amen.**

*Hymn – “Christ is the World’s True Light” (#542)*

*Deacon: The Dismissal*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

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*Celebrant and Preacher:* Father Bill Pickering

*Deacon:* Rev. Deacon Pam Hayes

*Acolytes:* Peyton Myers, Sophia Olfano

*Lay Eucharistic Ministers:* Aedan Barnes, Judie Ratcliffe, Steve Russell

*Lay Readers:* Barbara Edwards, Frank Darzano

*Ushers:* Dennis Courtnage, Cathie Courtnage, Debbie Evans, Carol Parnell

*Vestry Person of the Day:* Paul Bailey



*The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God.*

## St. Philip's Contacts

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving – Bishop of East Carolina  
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