

HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday of Advent

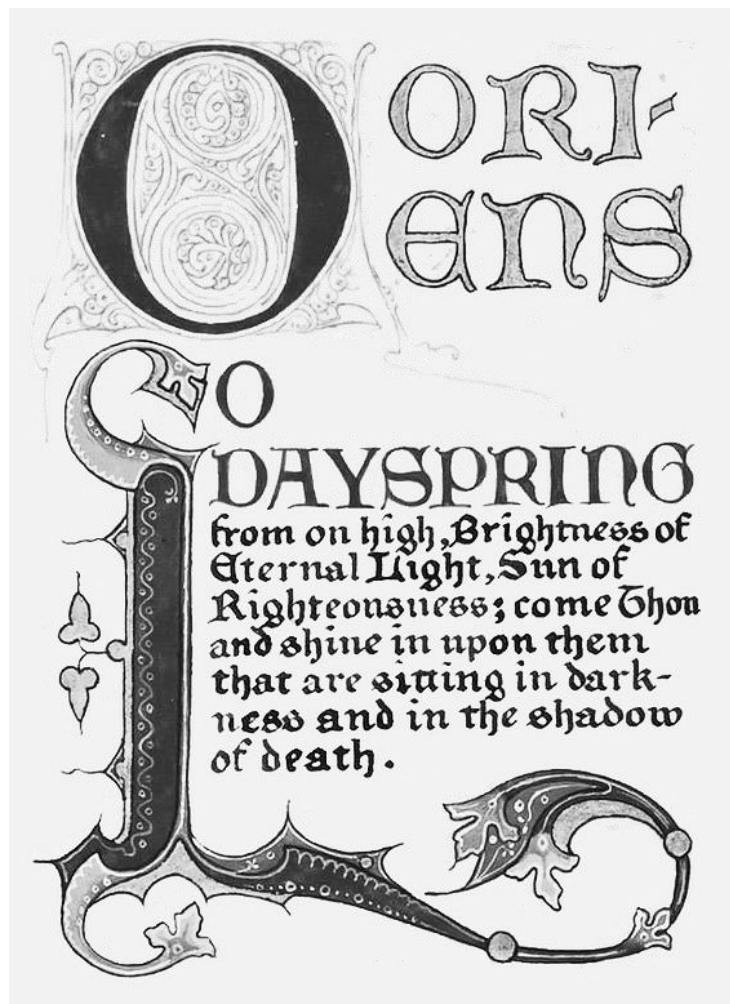
World AIDS Day

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | NOVEMBER 30, 2025 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Chanson de Nuit – Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)
James McNutt - Viola

Please stand as the bell sounds.

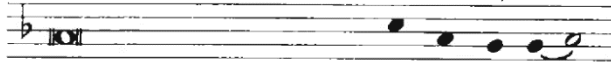


Singing the "[O Antiphons](#)" during the weeks of Advent is a tradition that dates back to the fifth century. Each of the seven antiphons (Advent was longer then) contains a name for the Messiah given by the prophet Isaiah: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel (meaning God with us). We will sing one of these O Antiphons before the Gospel reading each Sunday.

ADVENT LITANY

As the Church Year begins again, we enter it with a litany of forgiveness and hope, preparing ourselves to receive and be the Light of Christ. Join in the sung responses as together we renew our commitment to listen and follow where God is leading us on this Advent journey.

The Cantor sings



God the Father, Creator of hea-ven and earth,

The People respond to each petition:



Have mer-cy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Organ interlude.

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.



For-give us, O Lord.

We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Forgive us, O Lord.

We have squandered the resources of your creation and been insensitive to the needs of generations yet to come.

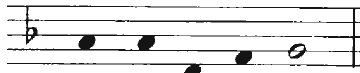
Forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Organ interlude.

Help us to prepare your way, opening our hearts to the transforming grace of your Word.



Pre-prepare us, O Lord.

Lead us in the way of John the Baptist, that our hearts may be open to receive the gift of the One who is to come.

Prepare us, O Lord.

Let us hear again the message of Gabriel and ponder anew the miracle of life.

Prepare us, O Lord.

Like Mary, let us sing with joy as we give thanks for the coming of the Savior.

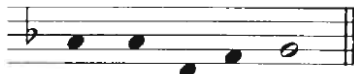
Prepare us, O Lord.

Fill us, O Lord, with the desire to observe this holy season, so that we might come to the birth of your Son in joy and expectation.

Prepare us, O Lord.

Organ interlude.

Your will is justice and respect for the dignity of all people.



Re-mind us, O Lord.

Your will is empowering love, giving us courage to bear the burdens of life.

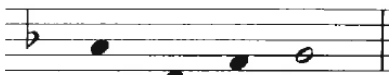
Remind us, O Lord.

Your will is peace, comfort to the troubled conscience and hope for new beginnings.

Remind us, O Lord.

Organ interlude.

In all our life, O Lord, enliven our hopes, inspire our dreams, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.



Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us expectant, O Lord, to see new possibilities for life and ministry through the eyes of your Son.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower us to reach out in love to the forsaken, the destitute and the oppressed.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for direction in our community of faith, for the ministry of laity and clergy, and in all authority in the nations of the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all humanity, for peace, for good-will among nations and for your spirit of love in our hearts.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill and those in trouble and adversity.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died and all who are the vessels of God's grace in every generation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Organ interlude.



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.



Words: Carl G. Carlozzi
Music: Peter R. Hallock (1924-2014), edited by Carl Crosier
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THE LESSON *seated*

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!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

*At 9:00am the Psalm is sung reflectively, with a slight pause at the asterisk.
At 11:00am, the Psalm is sung by the Choir*



I was glad when they | said to me, *
“Let us go to the | house of God.”

Now our | feet are standing *
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built | as a city *
that is at unity | with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the | Holy One, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the | Name of God.

For there are the | thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the | house of David.

Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: *
“May they prosper | who love you.

Peace be wi-|thin your walls *
and quietness wi-|thin your towers.

For my kindred and com-|panions' sake, *
I pray for | your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Holy | One our God, *
I will seek to | do you good.”

Setting: plainsong tone VIII

THE EPISTLE

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *standing; all turn toward the Gospel as the Choir or Cantor sings*

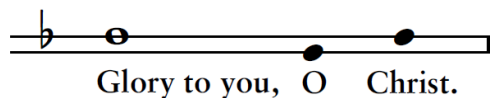
O Oriens,
splendor lucis aeternae,
et sol justitiae:
veni, et illumina
sedentes in tenebris,
et umbra mortis.

O Dawn,
splendor of eternal light,
and sun of justice,
come, and shine on those,
seated in darkness,
and in the shadow of death

THE GOSPEL *The Deacon or Priest intones*

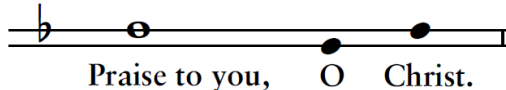
Matthew 24:36-44

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



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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Each year on December 1, the global community marks World AIDS Day: a time to remember those lost to AIDS, to stand in solidarity with people living with HIV, and to recommit ourselves to compassion, justice, and healing.

This morning our guest preacher at the 11am service is Anthony Howard Crisci, President and Executive Director of Circle Care Center in Norwalk — a leading local provider of stigma-free HIV treatment, prevention, primary care, and healing. Anthony is a long-time member of this congregation and has held many leadership roles, most recently as Co-Warden of the parish.

SERMON

Anthony Howard Crisci

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon. The Creed is omitted at this service.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the stillness of this season, we lift our hearts to the One who comes.

(Silence)

Come, Lord Jesus and awaken your Church to watch and pray. Kindle in us the light of your appearing.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Guide the nations in your wisdom, O Christ; teach us your ways of justice and peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Bless this community gathered in hope. Make us bearers of your light, and stewards of your promise.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Draw near to all who wait in darkness — the anxious, the weary, the forgotten. Let your dawn break upon them with healing.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying.

We remember before you those who have died and those who mourn. Gather them into your eternal dawn, where sorrow and sighing are no more.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying.

God of steadfast compassion, we remember all who have died of AIDS, and stand with every person living with HIV. Stretch your healing across the world, especially in the nations and places where treatment is scarce, systems are fragile, and stigma still wounds more deeply than the virus itself. Strengthen those who labor for access to medicine, dignity, and justice; uphold communities carrying heavy loss; and make your Church a refuge of truth, welcome, and unwavering solidarity. Through Christ our Healer. **Amen.**

We pray together

Come among us, O Christ, and make all things new.

**In your mercy, bring near the day
when your justice and peace shall fill the earth,
and all creation shall sing your praise. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

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to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place:



stpaulsnorwalk.org/support

Thank You!

Herefordshire Carol

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Words: Traditional English Carol

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate,
that God at first did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell -
woman was made with him to dwell.

Then after that 'twas God's own choice
to place them both in paradise,
there to remain from evil free
except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,
and thus their ruin did begin -
ruined themselves, both you and me,
and all of our posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run:
that he'd redeem us by his Son.

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy and eternal God, who comes to your people in every age. You spoke through the prophets, kindling hope in a weary world; you promise light to those who dwell in darkness, and peace to those who long for your reign. And so, watching and waiting, we join our voices with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and

might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -

ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, for your Word, coming into the world, the One who was, and is, and is to come. In Jesus, born of Mary, you drew near to us in vulnerability and love. He came to set us free, to turn our hearts to your coming kingdom.

On the night before he suffered and died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

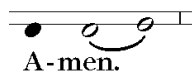
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, O God, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Kindle your Spirit in our hearts, that we may be light for the world you love, until the dawning of your new day, when all creation shall be gathered to you, and every heart shall know your peace.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

chanted by all on one note; the Choir will add harmonies

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 for ever. Amen.

Harmony: Society of St. John the Evangelist

THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

Come, Lord Jesus;
fill us with your presence.

Make us light for your coming kingdom of peace.

Everyone is welcome, without exception, to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)

Receiving Communion in a new way: If you are currently not drinking from the common cup, the chalice-bearer will still say “The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation” when they come to you in line. Try this: reach out a hand and touch the base of the chalice while the words are being said. That may feel like a more open and connecting gesture than crossing the arms over the chest. Either way is fine, but this is another way we can participate in the “one bread and one cup” image of the Life of Christ in us.

Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.

All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:

Organ

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sins of the world,
grant us your peace.

Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Arise, Shine for your Light has Come

George Elvey (1816 - 1893)

Arise, shine for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee,
and his glory shall be seen upon thee,
And the gentiles shall come to thy light
And kings to the brightness of thy rising.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

**God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent out to bring the Sacrament to the sick or homebound, the following charge is given.

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that *those* to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

The People respond

We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses a seasonal blessing, concluding with

– and the blessing of God Almighty: Source of all Being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,
be upon you, now and forever.

Amen.

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon sends the People in service to the world, and the People respond

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme – J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)
 James McNutt – Viola

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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