

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday of Advent

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 7, 2025 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, P.386 - Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

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.



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

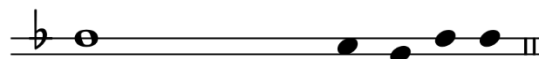
Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878), alt.
 Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514–1572); harm. *Hymnal* 1982

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

O come, Root of Jesse, breaking open the hope of the nations:

The People respond



Glory to God fore-ver and ev-er.

THE TRISAGION

sung once by the Choir or Cantor, and then twice by all

The musical notation for the Trisagion consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a basso line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a key signature of one flat.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

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

Setting: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant intones

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Your kingdom is at hand, O God of justice and peace; you made John the Baptist its herald to announce the coming of your Christ, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Give us a spirit of repentance to make us worthy of the kingdom. Let complacency yield to conviction, that in our day justice will flourish and conflict give way to the peace you bestow in Christ. Grant this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

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



Give the King your jus-|tice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to | the King's Son,
 That he may rule your | people righteously *
 and the | poor with justice;
 That the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, *
 and the little | hills bring righteousness.
 He shall defend the needy a-|mong the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.
 He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure, *
 from one generation | to another.
 He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field, *
 like showers that wa-|ter the earth.
 In his time shall the | righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
 Blest are you, O | God of Israel; *
 you alone do | wondrous deeds!
 And blest is your glorious | Name for ever! *
 May all the earth be filled with your glory. A-|men. Amen.

Setting: plainsong tone II

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

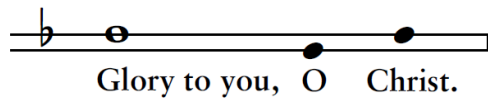
Thanks be to God.

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

*O Radix Jesse,
qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos,
jam noli tardare.*

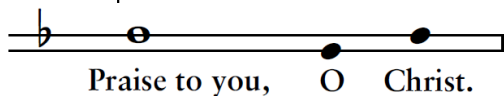
O Root of Jesse,
who stand as a sign for the people,
kings stand silent in your presence,
whom the nations will worship:
come to set us free,
put it off no longer.

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



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor;' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

The Rev. Daniel Simons
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

During the season of Advent we will use the Affirmation of Faith (Creed) from one of our companion churches in the Anglican Communion, the Church of New Zealand. The prayers of this branch of the church are beloved throughout the Communion for their simple, direct, and creation-centered language in liturgy.

You O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love to us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal.
You overcome death.
You are our God.
We worship you.

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.

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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Thank You!

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Choir at 11am*

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt (1829 – 1907)

*A tender shoot has started
up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race;
It blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter
turning our darkness into light.*

*This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
from Jesse's root should spring;
the Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing:
our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
thus turning darkness into light.*

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876–1961), alt.
 Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904)

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.

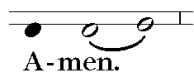
Christ is risen.

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)

MUSIC AT COMMUNION *sung by the Choir at 11:00am*

There shall a star from Jacob come forth

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar
with light and comfort glowing!
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'er flowing!

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

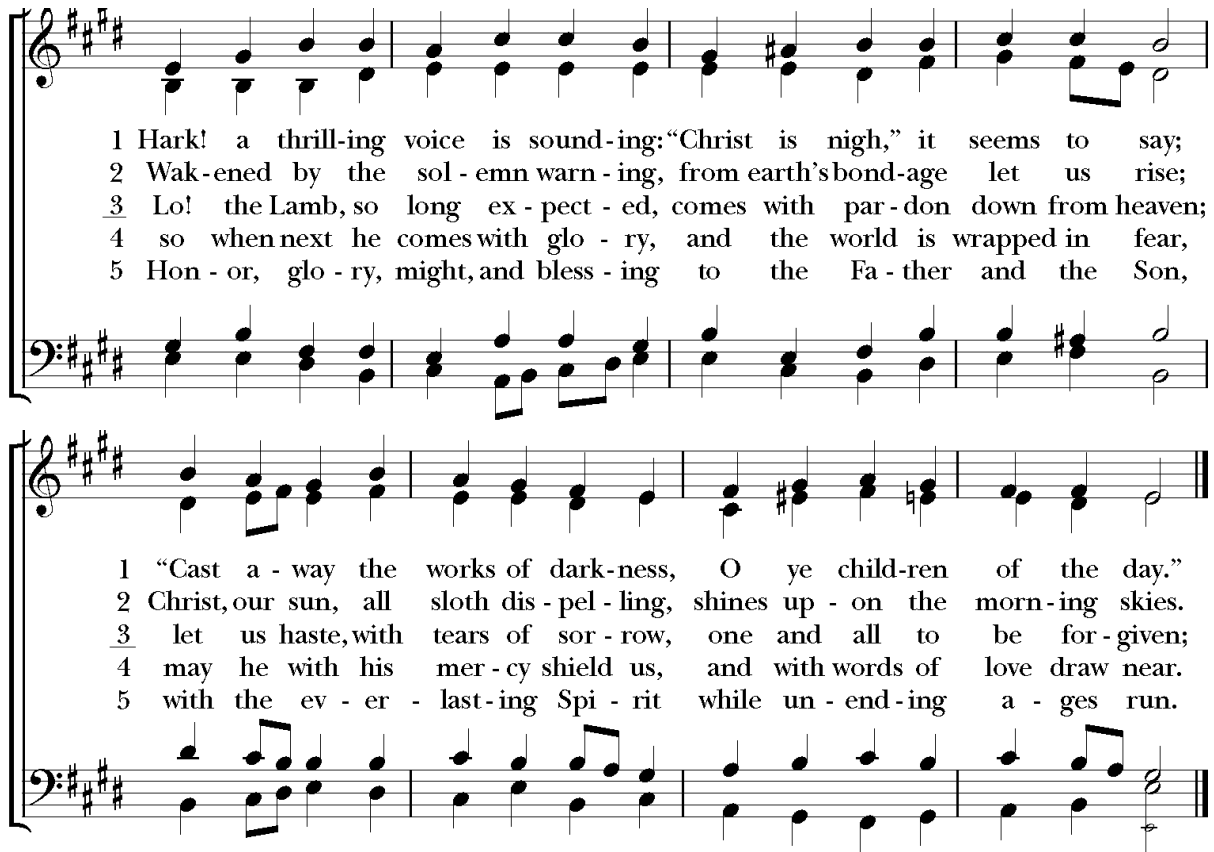
We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

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.



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.

Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935)

THE DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wie schön leuchtet den Morgenstern P.46 – Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

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

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The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

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