

## THE WORD OF GOD

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### Prelude

Procession People, look East WLP 724  
*Besançon Carol*

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II BCP pg. 355

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. Amen.

### Advent Wreath Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,  
People **God of love, may this wreath and its light remind us that Jesus came to redeem us. Bless this wreath and all who gather around it as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope, faith, joy, love, and life to our world. Amen.**

Song of Praise O come, O come, Emmanuel  
*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

O come, O God's revealing Word,  
Your voice the Hebrew prophets heard;  
They saw that one day war will cease,  
And all creation be at peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come again and with us ever dwell

### The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them

like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

The Response Canticle 16

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 Second Lesson Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Sequence There's a voice in the wilderness crying Hymn 75  
*Ascension*

The Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

The Sermon Drew Downey, Seminarian

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 358

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 Common Worship Times and Seasons

Leader In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come to your world as King of the nations. Before you rulers will stand in silence Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Amen.

People Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Give us with all the faithful departed, especially John Bryans, a share in your victory over evil and death. Amen.

People Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Amen.

People Come, Lord Jesus.

*Silence is kept.*

Leader Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People Amen.

The Confession of Sin Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God.

People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace BCP Pg. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**  
*We greet one another, passing the peace of God.*

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation of the Table

Offertory "Spirit Truth, Pure Light of Love" Robert J. Powell

Presentation of the Offerings Hymn 304  
verses 1 and 4

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known: we see and praise him here.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) BCP pg. 361

Celebrant and People Hymn S 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer A Continues BCP pg. 362

The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364

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

People 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 BCP pg. 364

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

Communion *Gluten-free wafers are available.*

Communion Hymns Comfort, comfort ye my people Hymn 67

Post Communion Prayer BCP pg. 365

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

Closing Hymn Prepare the way, O Zion Hymn 65  
*Bereden väg för Herran*

Dismissal BCP pg. 366

Postlude



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**ST. MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ARLINGTON, VA**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Whatever has brought you to worship with this community today, we're so glad you're here. If you're wondering whether there might be something more for you, we hope you'll come back and find out. One of the things we're committed to is finding how our story connects with God's story. We'd love to have your story become a part of our story.

In the words of the Worship Department at Washington National Cathedral, "Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted."

The root of the word liturgy is "the work of the people." Meaning all that happens in the sanctuary with the community who gathers works because of your participation. The beautiful thing about this invitation to participate is that, who we are and what we bring is enough because God meets us here! So don't worry about "doing" anything "right." Whether you've been to Episcopal services for a long time, or this is your first, we hope you'll worship in the way that is most comfortable to you. The service instructions about standing, kneeling, and other directions are intended to help clue you into the habits of this particular community.

We are currently offering communion in both kinds, the bread and the wine. Drinking from a common cup, is an essential symbolic practice, a reflection of our theology. We place great emphasis on offering this meal from a single paten (plate which holds the bread) and chalice to symbolize the unity we find in Christ, despite any perceived divisions. We return to the Eucharistic table again and again, because it is only through Christ that we are able to imagine what being unified might look like. Choosing to intinct the bread in the chalice is the least sanitary option, as we risk having many hands in the chalice. Please either drink from the chalice, or refrain from consuming the wine. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Whether you would like to receive bread, bread and wine, or a blessing, please know that you are welcome at the Lord's table.

Sounds from children, young and old, are a valuable part of a vibrant prayer life! Children's worship is an opportunity for our youngest members to creatively engage in scripture and worship from the opening hymn through the peace. Families who remain in the sanctuary are encouraged to allow children to worship in age-appropriate ways, remaining mindful that it does not distract those around you who are also worshipping. Should a break be beneficial at any point in the service, the nursery is available for supervised play, and includes a QR code for streaming of the service on any device.