

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* (the 'S' numbers are in the front!) or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* which can be found in your pew.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

Prelude: *Emmanuel, Savior of the Nations* Derek Hayes
The St. Dunstan Handbell Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 76: *On Jordan's Bank*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

Kyrie, Hymn S-96: *Lord, have mercy* (10:00 am only)
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. 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: *Baruch 5:1-9*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel

at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16



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

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

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

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

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

ALL Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

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

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

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

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

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 75: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

The Gospel: *Luke 3:1-6*

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.'"

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

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

Please stand or kneel

God of faith, you raised up John the baptizer as a herald who calls us to repent and prepare the way of the Lord. As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, we pray to you for the needs of the church and the world. *A brief silence.* We give thanks for the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: may our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture your creation and ever proclaim its wonders.

People **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community. May we create a world where shelter, food, and medical care are available for everyone and where the law protects all people equally. Help us to see Christ in the people on the margins of our society, open us to the truth you reveal through them, and let us recognize them as companions on the way, brothers and sisters in Christ. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

God of reconciliation, we ask for healing for the divisions in our nation. Teach us to listen deeply to one another and learn to respect each other in spite of our differences. Fill our land with your spirit of reconciliation that we may truly be one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of the Middle East, Ukraine, and all places torn apart by violence and war today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability, remembering especially those on our prayer list, and all whose struggles are known to you alone. *Silence* Grant them skilled physicians, compassionate caregivers, and show us how we can best minister to them in their need. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those who are dear to us. *Silence* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

God of life, the generations rise and pass away before you. We remember Jim Henrichs and Jim Wessel Walker, in whose memory the flowers are given this morning; and all those we love but see no longer. *Silence* As we remember the lives of all your saints, inspire us by their witness and support us by their communion as we continue in your word that will not pass away. **God of faith, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you are beyond the reach of our highest thought, and yet within the heart of the lowliest; come to us, we pray, in the beauty of light, in the tenderness of love, in the liberty of truth. Mercifully help us to work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Sanctify all our desires and purposes, and let your blessing rest upon each of us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Anthem: Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Calling

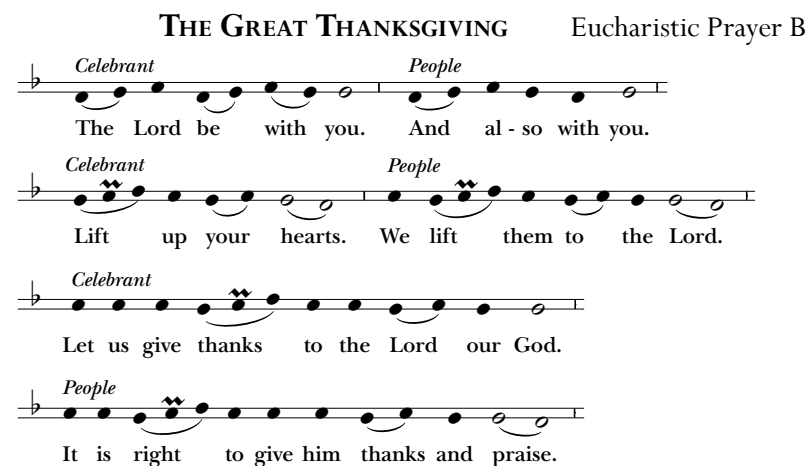
arr. William Roger Price (b.1955)

The Men of the St. Andrew's Adult Choir

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day." Waken'd by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n; let us all, with tears of sorrow, pray that we may be forgiv'n; that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy may he shield us, and with words of love draw near. Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior take the pow'r and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen.

Children's Entrance Hymn 70: Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.

Sanctus S-130: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

Celebrant By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-152: Christ our Passover

Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Communion Voluntary: Creator of the Stars of Night arr. Joe Canyon
The St. Dunstan Handbell Choir

Communion Hymn, LEVAS 11: Prepare Ye the Way

When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we 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.

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

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **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 65: Prepare the Way, O Zion

Dismissal

The young people are invited to come forward during the hymn to participate in the dismissal.

Young people Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Prepare the Royal Highway Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. Paul Manz (1919–2009)

Oliver Steissberg, Organ