

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

December 21st, 2025

9:00 AM



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION
Northwoods, MO

THE BIDDING & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Season of Advent takes its name from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming” or “visit.” Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. For Christians Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. During Advent we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of our Jewish ancestors for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and new beginning.

THE BIDDING FOR ADVENT

OPENING HYMN

61 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Em Am Em G C

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, who or - dered all things
 3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4 O come, thou branch of Jes - se's stem, un - to thine own and

Am Em/B Bm Em Am Em D

Is ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times did give the law
 res - cue them! From depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Em D G Am G/B D G Refrain D Em Bm G

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in its ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Am D Em D G C Am Em/B Bm Em

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

(continues)

Words: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.
 Music (VENI EMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 refrain 8.8): French processional, 15th c., adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854, P.D.

Presider Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People ***Thanks be to God!***

Presider Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this journey of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath. To slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming once more into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us; to listen for the beating of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings. As we gather for this time of worshipful anticipation let us in the silence rest in God's presence.

A prolonged silence is kept.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. ***Amen.***

Presider Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey.

People ***With its light comes our prayers and our stories.***

ADVENT WEEK FOUR

Presider The candle of this fourth week of Advent is a candle of LOVE. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us. Jesus said "As the God has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love."

Once the candles are lit, the Presider continues

Presider Your light has shone in our shadowed world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;

People ***Grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all. Amen.***

THE GREETING

Presider Blessed be the Holy One whose coming we await,

People ***And blessed be the One who comes to set all people free. Amen.***

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,

People ***All desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy Name; through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.***

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Holy God, we have fallen short in loving you and loving our neighbors; we stand beside each other and ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess:

People ***We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.***

Presider May the Trinity of Love bring you back to God and forgive you all your sins; be assured of God's eternal love in Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

People ***Amen.***

SONG OF PRAISE *(spoken)*

Presider Let us glorify the Holy One as we proclaim.

People ***O Light of the world, first born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten. God self-revealing, holy, bright and blessed, you shine upon us.***

Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal and we look to you, our light within the shadow. We sing to you O Creator, Christ and Spirit, you shine before us.

Light of our world, O Jesus Christ, we bless you; giver of life and Child of God we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Presider God is with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

CALLLED TO BE HOLY

730 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

C G F G C

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to

C/E Dm Am C Em

fol-low Je-sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je-sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness,
be with Je-sus. When we have run with

F G C G D G

light to the world; the star of my life is Je-sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa-ther.
pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain C F G C F C Am G

In him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the

DEDICATION TO HOLY LIVING

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef. The melody is in the Treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the Bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The chords are indicated above the Treble staff.

Chords: Csus, C, Am, G, Dm, Em, D, G, C, Em, Dm, G7, C.

Lyrics: day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God; shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People ***Glory to you, O Christ.***

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton

THE ADVENT CREED

Deacon Let us stand and affirm our hope in the light of Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God?

People We believe in God, eternal, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Deacon Do you believe and trust in Jesus the Christ?

People We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, the Only Begotten One; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived and loved among us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; who descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again; Jesus, Our Savior, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the loving God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Deacon Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior.

Leader Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, Renee our Rector, and Valerie our Deacon. Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of the nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need. We pray especially for:

John Anthony
Linette Cayetano
Keyanna Dorsey & Family
Stella Hughes
Greg Kelley
Johnetta Martin
Helen Owens
Marion Robinson
Lisbeth Salgado
Carol Weir

Delphine Booker
Chris Crittenden
Rick Earley
Marvelle Johnson
Winifred Lemmie
Alex Okumu
Betty Patton
Rick Rollins
Phillistene Tefend
David Westfall

Harold Briggs
Bessie Clemmons
Ronald Hawkins
Erika Jones
Carol Mecagni
Diana Oliver
Michelle Pendelton
Florence Ross
Patricia Thomas
Annie White

Antoinette Williams

James Williams, Sr.

We continue to pray for all those who are still affected by the tornado in May. We pray especially for our adopted family and many others.

We pray for all veterans and those who are currently serving in the military, especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force

Captain Jovonny Carrion-United States Army

Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

Captain Steven C. Roberts, II – United States Air Force Reserve

The Rev. Jamal Scarlett-Lieutenant Commander and Navy Chaplain

Major Christopher Westfall-United States Air Force

People may name others silently or aloud. Silence is kept for a time.

Leader Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ's hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light. We pray especially for Patricia

Clinkscale, cousin of Deborah Dukes. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Leader Keep us awake and alert to everything in need of our prayers (PAUSE). Christ our hope;

People ***Shine in our hearts.***

Presider Shine forth O God of Hosts, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

56

Descant

4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

F Dm Gm7 F C B^b Csus C F

- 1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
- 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
- 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
- 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Dm A7 Dm C B^b F Csus C7 F

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Presider God is with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

Presider and People "Holy, Holy"

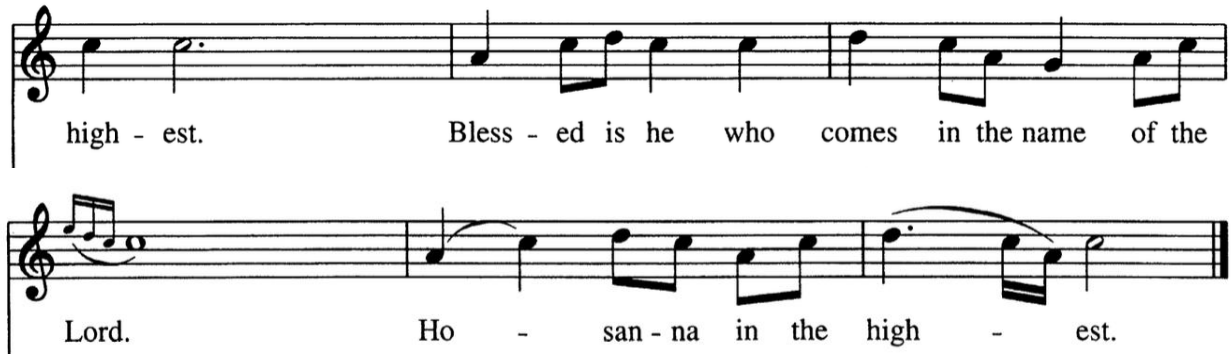
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Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho - san-na in the



Presider Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By 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.

GREAT AMEN *(traditional melody, sung)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray. *(sung)*

***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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

FRACTION ANTHEM

Presider and People

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider 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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(All are invited to God's Table. You may come forward to receive the Body of Christ or to receive a blessing. Some may wish to remain in your seats. Please use this time to quietly sit and pray or join in the singing of the hymn.)

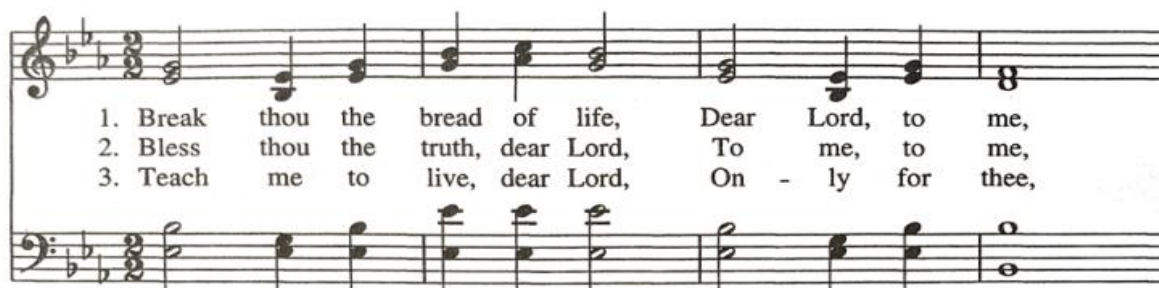
(Those at home may, if they wish, say this prayer:)

In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

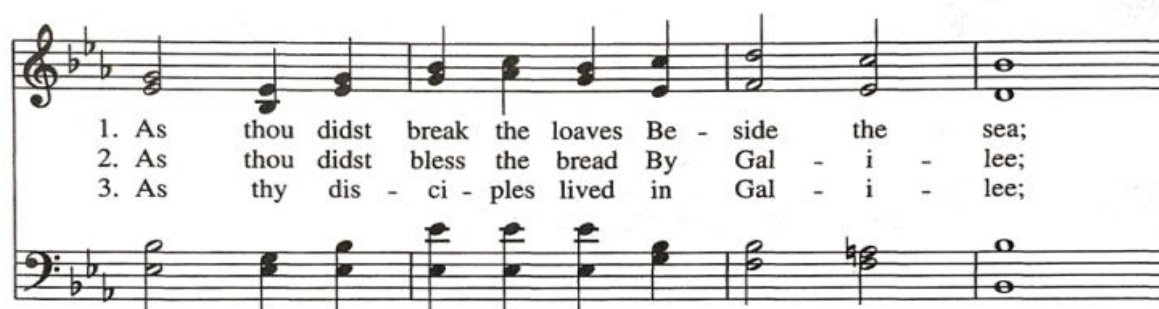
COMMUNION HYMN

Break Thou the Bread of Life

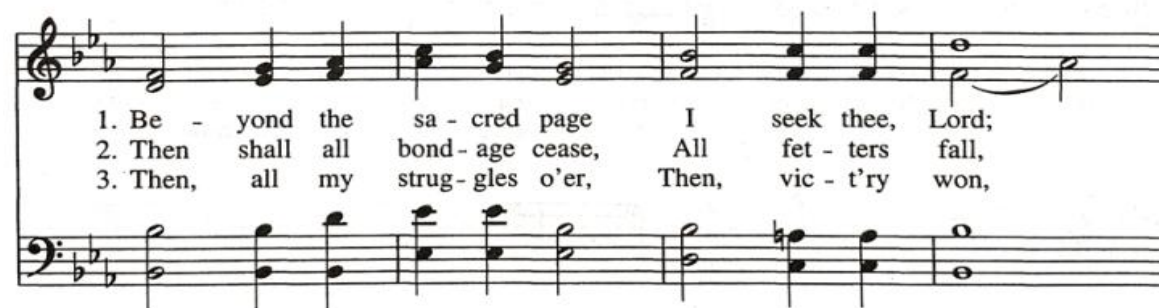
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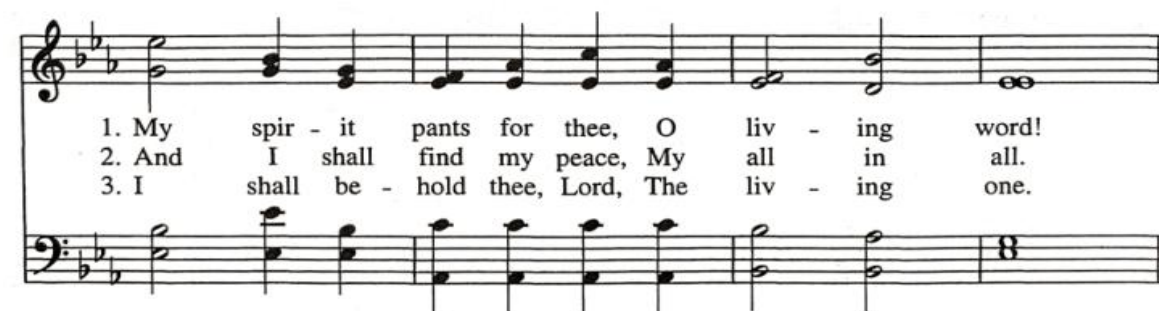
1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
 2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
 3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,



1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;
 2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;
 3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;



1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
 2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,
 3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,



1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider God is with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Together, let us pray.

All ***Eternal God, for whom we await, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

THE BLESSING

Presider Our Advent candle(s) serve as symbols of our faith in the coming of Christ among us. Faith that God sees us and meets us even in the messiness of life. We now embody Christ's living flame. Let us be the light to a world in need of light, that we may be guided to Emmanuel, God with us, once more.

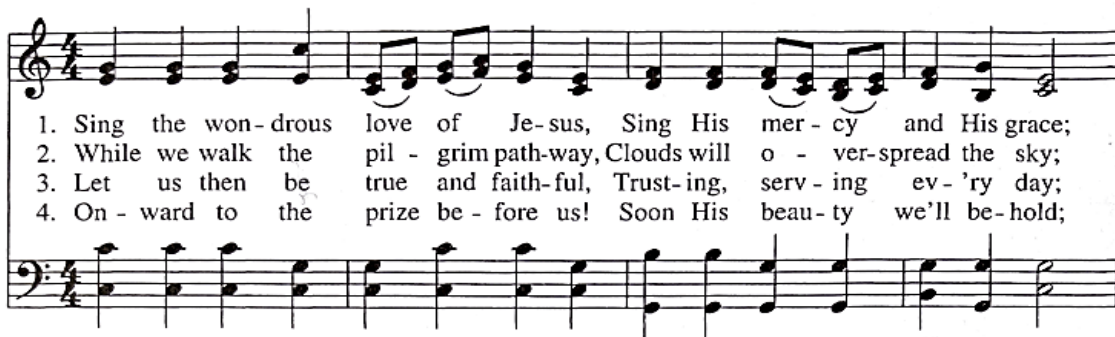
May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. ***Amen.***

*We give thanks for the many prayers of this Liturgy written by
The Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson,
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri.*

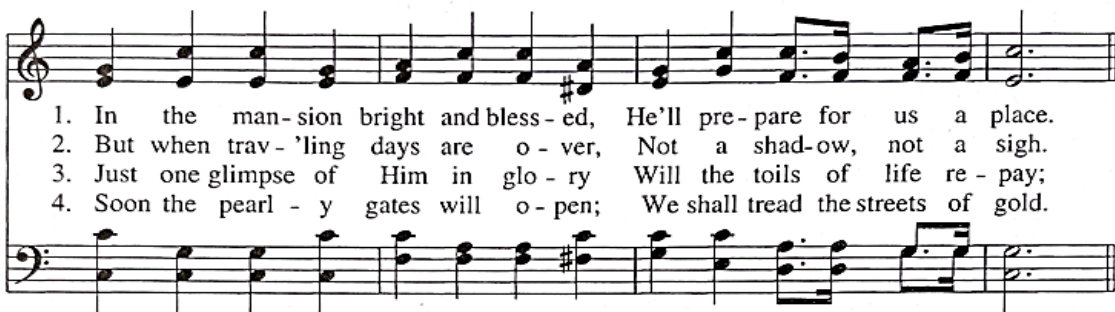
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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When We All Get to Heaven



1. Sing the won-drous love of Je-sus, Sing His mer-cy and His grace;
 2. While we walk the pil-grim path-way, Clouds will o-ver-spread the sky;
 3. Let us then be true and faith-ful, Trust-ing, serv-ing ev-'ry day;
 4. On-ward to the prize be-fore us! Soon His beau-ty we'll be-hold;

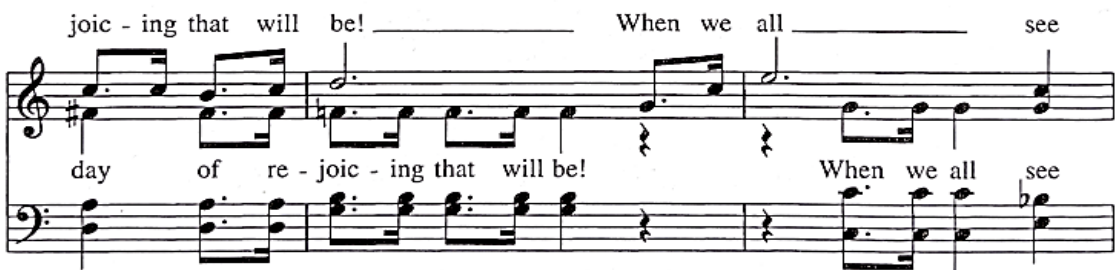


1. In the man-sion bright and bless-ed, He'll pre-pare for us a place.
 2. But when trav-'ling days are o-ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.
 3. Just one glimpse of Him in glo-ry Will the toils of life re-pay;
 4. Soon the pearl-y gates will o-pen; We shall tread the streets of gold.



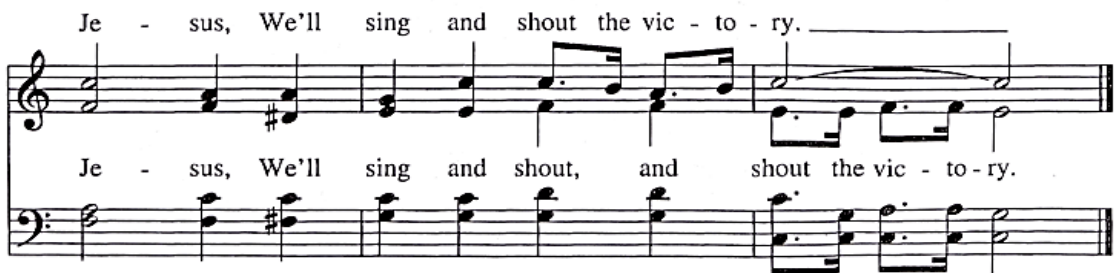
When we all _____ get to heav-en, What a day of re-

When we all get to heav-en, What a



joic-ing that will be! _____ When we all _____ see

day of re-joic-ing that will be! When we all see



Je-sus, We'll sing and shout the vic-to-ry.

Je-sus, We'll sing and shout, and shout the vic-to-ry.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go forth in the Name of Christ, walking in hope, carrying peace, living in love, and radiating joy.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Stanley Johnson

Reader

Betty Brown

Acolyte

Stanley Meredith

Minister of Music

Terrell Thompson

OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: *To be the Light of Christ that builds relationships in our congregation, our community, and with our God.*

Vision Statement: *Finding Christ in Relationships*

Class of 2025

Senior Warden-Joyce Crittenden (2026)

Junior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)

Class of 2027

Adrienne Dillon

Sondra Harrell

Class of 2028

Michael Griffin

Stanley Merridith

Treasurer

Rickey Mabry

Convention Delegates

Adrienne Dillon (2027)

Caroline Moore (2027)

Alternate Delegate

Donna Black (2027)



“Charity is no substitute for justice withheld.”

- St. Augustine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

We are always ready to pray for family members, friends, neighbors and all those in need of our prayers. As promised, we are returning to the practice of keeping names on our prayer list for six weeks. If you would like to include someone on our prayer list, please fill out a 'Prayer Request Form' located at the Ushers' station. Thank you!

REMEMBER OUR ADOPTED FAMILY

Please remember our adopted family during this holiday season and help brighten their spirits! Our family consists of a single mother and her two daughters, ages 18 and 21. We can continue our monetary fund to help pay for repairs to their home. We can provide food and personal items, and gift cards to stores such as Schnuck's, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Kohl's, and Aldi's. "Whatever you do to the least of them; you do unto me (Matthew 25:40)."

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT CCC

Christ Church Cathedral invites everyone to join them this afternoon, Dec. 21 at 5:00 pm for a special presentation of Handel's Messiah, offered as a choral concert with prayers, featuring the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Connor Scott. A reception will follow. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

NEW YEAR'S EVE TAIZE AT THE CATHEDRAL

Confluence Spirituality St. Louis invites you to join them for prayers, scripture readings, and chants in the style of Taize in Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust Street, St. Louis, at 5:00 pm. It is a deeply spiritual way to close 2025 and open our hearts to 2026. ALL ARE WELCOME! Secure parking is available at the Cathedral.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Please mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 25. More information to come.

ASA'S 2026 CHURCH CALENDAR

We are currently planning the 2026 calendar. We are asking that all committees and chairpersons to please submit dates for your events for next year. We are looking for dates ONLY-no reports yet. Please turn in your dates by January 4, 2026.

ASA FOOD MINISTRY – FEED THE NEED

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Thank you for your generosity in feeding our brothers and sisters in the beloved community who are food insecure! The need is becoming more significant as we continue to partner with the Urban League and the decisions being made in our national government. We want the following items to restock our food pantry:

Paper Products

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue

Toiletries

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Hair Shampoo

Ramen Noodle

Vienna Sausage

Mac and Cheese

Peanut Butter

Canned or Packaged Meat...Tuna or Chicken Breast

Canned Chili

Canned Soup

Canned Spaghetti and Meatballs

Packaged Pasta Spaghetti, and Rice

When purchasing canned items, please consider getting pull-tops, if possible, as many do not have can openers.

SIBLING SUPPORT NETWORK

Do not forget that help is there for those dealing with the loss of a sibling due to violent crime. For more info and survey, please go to: sibling support network.org or contact Cheeraz Gormon for more information – cgormon@gmail.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider sponsoring the altar flowers for a Sunday Eucharist. Your sponsorship will allow us to make our worship space beautiful. You can make a dedication to your deceased loved ones or give recognition to living loved ones or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Check out our website for a form or see an usher!

COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP

Coffee Hour allows us time to fellowship with each other after Eucharist. Thank you to those who have sponsored a Coffee Hour thus far. Please think about signing up with another parishioner to provide treats for this fun event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Refreshments may consist of fruits, pastries/Danish, juice, coffee, tea. **Please note that hosts are also responsible for cleanup.**

COMPLETING OFFERING ENVELOPES

PLEASE HELP make the Tellers' job a lot easier by doing the following:

- Write your name on each envelope.
- Write your number on the envelope if you are not using the one assigned to you.
- See Deborah Dukes or Betty Brown if you do not remember your number.
- If you are writing a check, include the check number in the top right corner.
- If you are paying with cash, please write "Cash" in the top right corner instead of a check number.
- Use one envelope for one donation.
- If your donation is for anything other than your pledge, PLEASE, include on the envelope what it is for, i.e., ECW Dues, Men's Club, etc.

PAYPAL

Did you forget to bring your pledge with you to a Eucharist? Or perhaps you cannot attend one of the Eucharists on Sunday morning. Then you should consider using Pay Pal to send in your pledge/contribution. It's fast, easy, and a guaranteed safe way to contribute. Some of our parishioners are already taking advantage of this service. For more information, go to our Website and click on the "Connect Tab" and then click on "Online Contributions.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
ASA EVENING PRAYER – EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM

<contact parish office for Zoom login info>

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO EVENING PRAYER ON DECEMBER 24!

ASA BIBLE STUDY

Please join our weekly Bible Study group every Thursday at 10:00 am. We will be discussing Women of the Bible, so come ready to learn and share your insights. I believe that studying God's Word as a group will strengthen our Faith and will help us relate His Words to our lives in today's world. Joyce Crittenden, Leader.

<contact parish office for Zoom login info>



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE-5:00 PM
Carols with Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, 25TH DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS DAY-10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist



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