

Second Sunday of Advent
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
December 7th, 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

11

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Piano introduction in C major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand provides a bass line of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The piece consists of four measures.

Vocal line in C major, 4/4 time. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5. The lyrics "Pre-pare ye the way" are under the first four notes. The melody continues with a half note G4, a half note F4, and a whole note E4. The lyrics "of the Lord." are under the last three notes. There are triplet markings over the eighth notes G4, A4, B4 and the eighth notes G4, F4, E4.

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal line. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand provides a bass line of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The piece consists of four measures.

Vocal line in C major, 4/4 time. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, A4, B4, C5. The lyrics "Pre-pare ye the way" are under the first four notes. The melody continues with a half note G4, a half note F4, and a whole note E4. The lyrics "of the Lord." are under the last three notes. There are triplet markings over the eighth notes G4, A4, B4 and the eighth notes G4, F4, E4.

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand provides a bass line of eighth notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4. The piece consists of three measures.

1.- 4. *Final ending* **Fine**

1. Make straight in the
 2. Fill ev - 'ry
 3. Go up to a
 4. Say to all

D.S.

1. des - ert _____ a high - way for our God.
 2. val - ley, _____ bring all moun - tains low.
 3. moun - tain _____ and shout with a loud voice.
 4. peo - ple, _____ here _____ is your God.

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 TWO

Presider The candle of this second week of Advent is a candle of peace. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the peace that Jesus brings into this world. Jesus said, "I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It is not like the peace that this world can give. So do not be worried or afraid."

Once the candles are lit, the Presider continues

Presider Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days, you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things.

People ***Grant us, your people, to walk in Christ's light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgment. 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 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:11-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 18-19 *Deus, judicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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 God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

59 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ISAIAH 40:1-5

F Dm B^b F Dm F F/C C F



1 Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; speak of peace: so says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Then make straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Dm B^b F Dm F F/C C F



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing all to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

C D A F B^b C



Cry out to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

F Gm Dm F B^b F B^b Dm Csus C F



tell her that her sins I cov - er and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

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.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

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	Delphine Booker	Harold Briggs
Dorothy Carter	Linette Cayetano	Chris Crittenden
Bessie Clemmons	Keyanna Dorsey & Family	Rick Earley
Ronald Hawkins	Stella Hughes	Marvelle Johnson
Erika Jones	Greg Kelley	Winifred Lemmie
Carol Mecagni	Johnetta Martin	Dwan Minor
Alex Okumu	Diana Oliver	Helen Owens
Betty Patton	Michelle Pendelton	Marion Robinso
Rick Rollins	Florence Ross	Liseth Salgado
Phyllis Tefend	Patricia Thomas	Carol Weir
David Westfall	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 the soul of the Rev. Sue Eastes, clergy of the diocese. 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 for petitions for thanksgivings, creation, stewardship, local concerns etc.) 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

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King; —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. 3. 4.
 — Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

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"

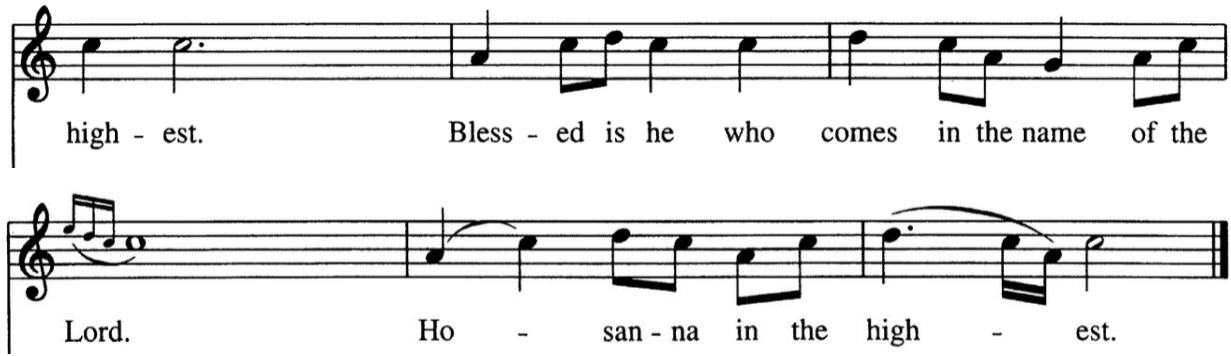
252

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Now Behold the Lamb

838

1 Now be-hold the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God.
2 Ho-ly is the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God.
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God.

7 Bore all my sin that I may
Why you love me so, Lord, I shall
Be-cause of your grace I can fin-

live a-gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
nev-er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Words and Music (NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB 5.6.5.6.6): Kirk Franklin (b. 1970) © 2007 Lilly Mack Publishing (BMI), admin. Capitol CMG Publishing

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.

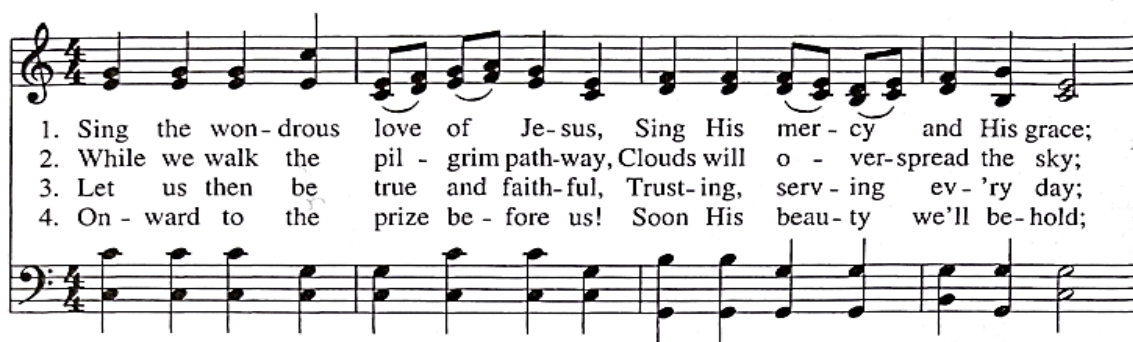
May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. ***Amen.***

*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.*

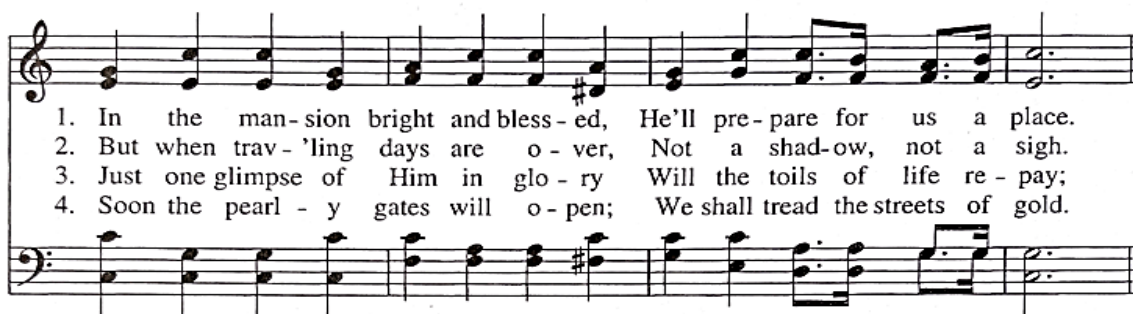
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

20

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;



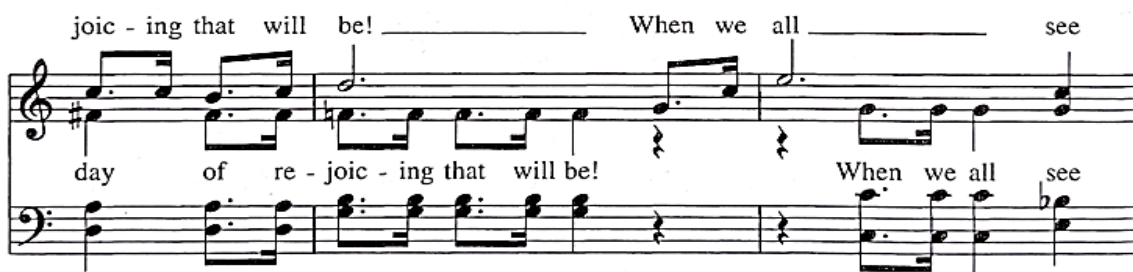
1. In the man-sion bright and bless-ed, He'll pre-pare for us a place.
 2. But when trav-'ling days are o-ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.
 3. Just one glimpse of Him in glo-ry Will the toils of life re-pay;
 4. Soon the pearl-y gates will o-pen; We shall tread the streets of gold.

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



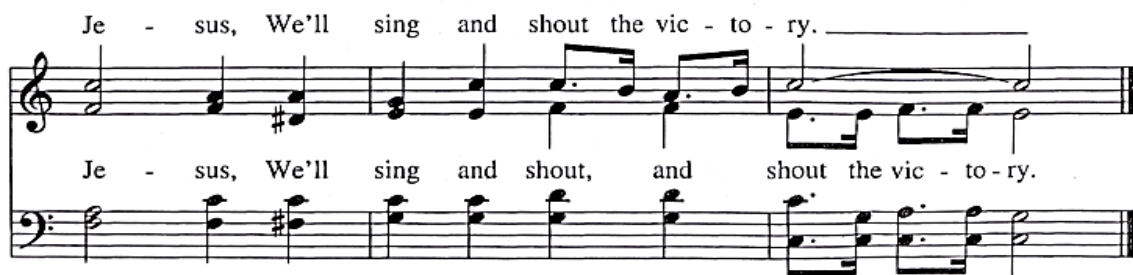
When we all get to heav-en, What a

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

Joyce Crittenden

Acolyte

Laura Mabry

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)



“You really can change the world if you care enough.”

-Marian Wright Edelman

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!

WELCOME BACK, REV. RENEE

How time flies! Three months ago seems like yesterday! Welcome back from sabbatical, Rev. Renee! We hope and pray your time away was restorative, reflective, relaxing, and restful! We look forward to a new season of growth, visioning, and dreaming together!

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)."

CORE COLLECTIVE AT ST. VINCENT'S

In years past, we have collected gift cards for the residents of the Core Collective. We would like to continue our tradition of blessing the Core Collective community! "We are so grateful that your congregation can support The Core Collective again this year. We have developed an Amazon wish list for the youth this year. You can access the wish list here: <https://a.co/663zCwZ>. These items can be shipped directly to The Core Collective.

This is a list of gift cards our youth would like to receive:

Amazon
Apple
Bath & Body Works
Door Dash

Nike
Pink
Schnucks
Shein

Target
Uber/Life
Ulta
Visa

Five Below
Foot Locker
McDonald

Shoe Carnival
Starbucks
Temu

Walmart
Xbox

We have a team of volunteers who will wrap all gifts received. We would like everything in house no later than Friday, December 19th." For further information, you may contact Deacon Valerie.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERTS

Please plan to attend one of the two annual Christmas concerts of the **Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis** "GOSPEL JOY-THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS". The dates are Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 4:00 pm at Central Baptist Church, 2842 Washington Ave, St. Louis, Mo 63103 and Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 4:00 pm at Kirkwood High School, 800 Dougherty Ferry Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

These concerts are free, but we suggest you order your ticket in advance to ensure your seat. Go to: communitygospelchoir.org/all-events/

The Voices of St. Alphonsus Choir invites you to join them for a beautiful celebration of music, community, and the joy of the season! They are presenting their Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3:00 pm at St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Catholic Church, 1118 North Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63106.

The Legend Singers Choral Ensemble will present "Soulful Sounds of the Season" on Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 pm at First Baptist Church of Ferguson, 333 North Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO 63135. Admission is free; an offering will be collected.

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 logon info>

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO EVENING PRAYER ON DECEMBER 10 AND 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 logon 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

4520 Lucas and Hunt Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121
314-367-2314 and 314-361-0105
allsaintsascension.com
allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net