

Advent

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

First Sunday of Advent – December 3
Third Sunday of Advent – December 17
9:30 AM

FULL TEXT AND MUSICAL SCORES LARGE PRINT (14 pt) BULLETIN

Welcome to Church of Our Redeemer. We are so very glad that you are here.

You are warmly invited to participate in worship in whatever way is safest and best for you – at home or in person. Masking and distancing are now optional in worship at all times except for those sitting in the indicated rear rows on the right-hand/Memorial Garden side of the church. Masking decisions for other formation activities will be made by participants and leaders.

Please be aware that this service will be live-streamed. Both audio and video will be recorded. If you prefer not to be on video, please sit in the area of the church under the balcony.

If you would like to learn more about the life of our parish, please speak to our greeters or one of our clergy, or email <u>office@ourredeemerlexington.org</u> to be added to our weekly e-newsletter.

You are invited into a quiet and worshipful space during the Prelude.

Prelude

Dec. 3 Chorale "From heaven above to earth I come" F. W. Zachau

Dec. 17 Selection, Guest Organist Carol Dixon

Welcome

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please stand in body or in spirit.



Our parish regularly uses all the liturgical resources approved by the Episcopal Church for Sunday services including <u>The Book of Common Prayer</u> (1979) as well as <u>Enriching Our Worship</u> (1997) and additional resources as they are permitted. Over the course of the year, we use both traditional and contemporary language and imagery for God and God's people, all of it grounded in Scripture and the Anglican tradition.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Dec. 3 Of the Father's love, v. 1

UMH 184

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

Dec. 17 Of the father's love, v. 3

UMH 184

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Leader:

Blessed are you, our God, who created the light and the darkness and sent your only Son to bring your love to all people. We pray for your blessing upon this wreath and upon all who kindle these lights. As we gather together in this Advent darkness to await the dawn of Christ, prepare our hearts and homes to receive our Savior.

Dec. 3 The first candle is lit.

Leader: God, our source and our ending; God of our past, our present, and

our future, ever more and ever more –

People: Come, and show your people the way to salvation.

Dec. 17 The first, second, and third candles are lit.

Leader: Holy One, we join with angels in singing your praise, ever more and

ever more -

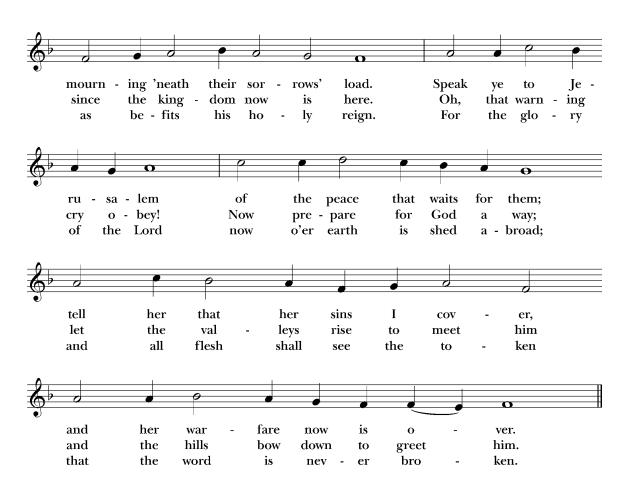
People: Come, and show your people the way to salvation.

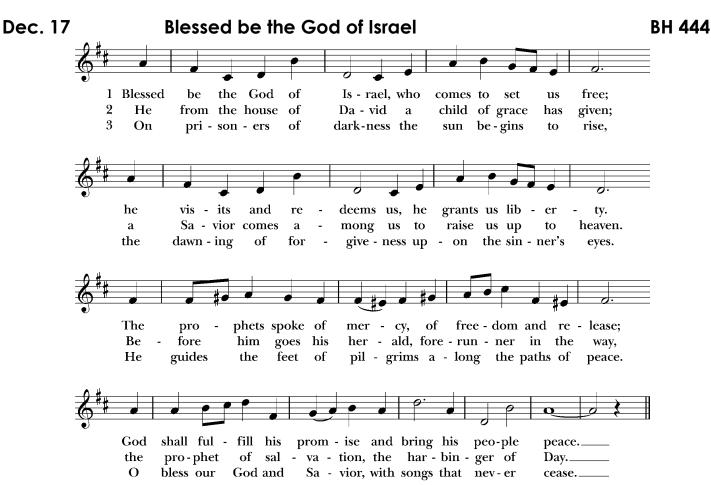
Opening Hymns

Dec. 3 Comfort, comfort ye, my people

BH 67







Opening Acclamation

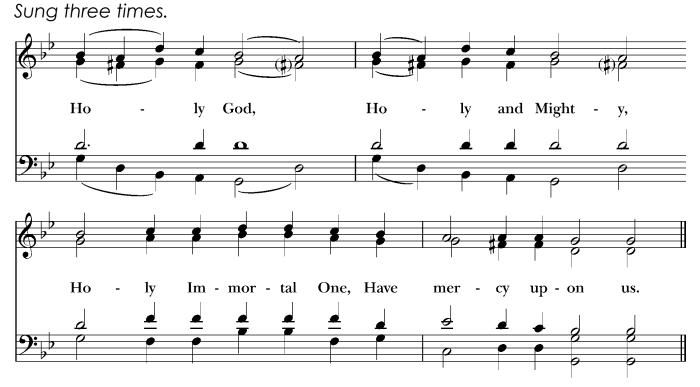
Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Collect for Purity

All: 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.

Trisagion BH \$102



Collect of the Day

Dec. 3: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dec. 17: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading BCP 357

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Response to the reading:

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

Dec. 3 Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Dec. 17 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalms

Please join in praying the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

Dec. 3 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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.

Dec. 17 Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Reading

BCP 357

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. (Dec. 3)

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. (Dec. 17)

Response to the reading:

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

Dec. 3 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dec. 17 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

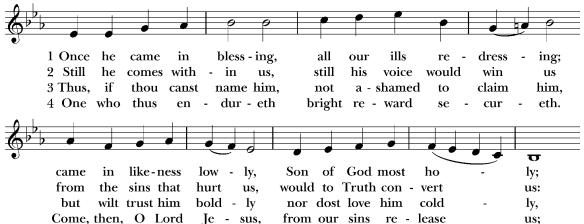
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

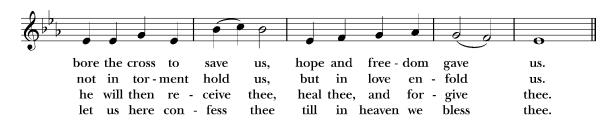
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel Hymn

Once he came in blessing, vv. 1-2

BH 53





Holy Gospel BCP 357

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. (Dec. 3)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. (Dec.

17)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Response to the reading:

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

Dec. 3 Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Dec. 17 John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon

December 3
December 17

The Rev. Ginger Solaqua The Rev. Megan Holding

Please stand in body or in spirit.

The Nicene Creed BCP 359

All:

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.

Prayers of the People, Form II

BCP, pg. 385

In the silence after each bidding, the People are invited to offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader:

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Alan and Carol, our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence*.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. Silence.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. Silence.

I ask your prayers for the departed especially [Parish Prayer List] and those we name before you now (Silence). Pray for those who have died. Silence.

I ask your prayers for [Parish Prayer List] and those we name before you now (Silence). I ask your thanksgiving for [flowers, baptisms, etc.] Silence.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*.

Celebrant: Lord, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you. Dispel the

clouds and darkness and awaken us to your glory, that we may

walk in your light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin BCP, p. 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept. The people stand or kneel in body or in spirit.

All: Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

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.

Please stand in body or in spirit.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Celebrant: I appeal to you all, by the mercies of God, to present your-

selves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which

is your spiritual worship. ~ Romans 12:1

During the music, representatives of the congregation bring forward the people's offerings of bread, wine, and financial gifts to the presider.

Your financial offering can be put in the plate at the entrance or shared online at https://www.our-redeemer.net/stewardship-2/contribute-online/

Please be seated.

Offertory Anthem

Dec. 3 Toda la tierra (All earth is waiting) A. Taule/Skinner Chavez-Melo

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
for his name is 'God with us' our brother shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord. He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

Dec. 17 In the bleak midwinter

Rosetti/G. Holst

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air, but only his mother, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Doxology, v. 3 BH 380

As we sing, all children are invited to come forward and surround the table as we pray over the bread and wine. Children are welcome to receive communion before returning to their seats or to return to the pews and come forward to receive with their families.

People: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Please stand in body or in spirit.

Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

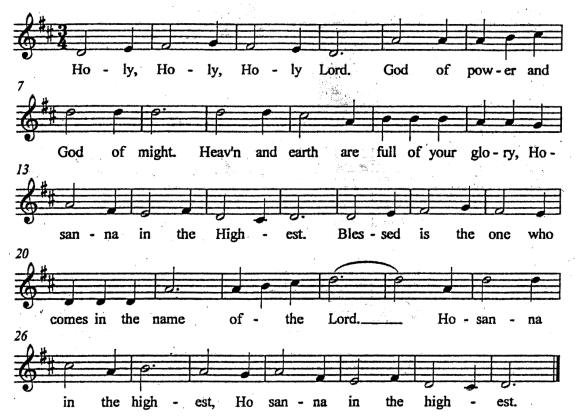
The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

BCP 367

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Sanctus



The people stand or kneel in body or in spirit.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people...

The Presider praises God for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ our Lord and remembers Jesus' invitation at the Last Supper.

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

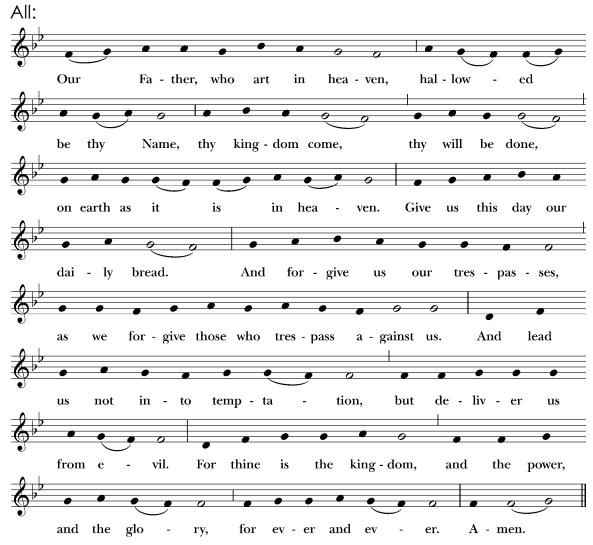
All:

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

Celebrant:

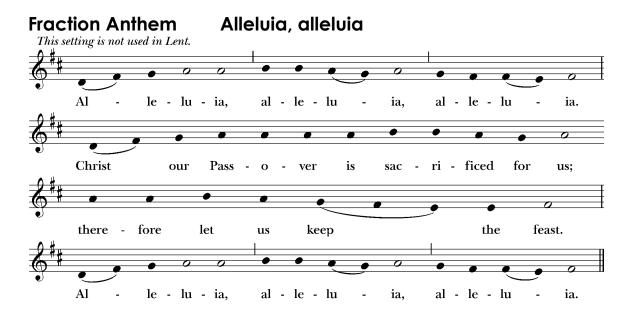
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:



Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.



BH S154

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Holy Communion

All who come seeking God are welcome to receive communion. If you have difficulty coming forward, please tell a greeter that you would like communion brought to your seat. To come forward for communion, please exit your pew by the side aisle and return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let the communion minister know. You may receive wine at the center aisle, but we also affirm the long tradition of the church that to receive the bread alone is to fully receive the grace of the sacrament.

Intinction (dipping the wafer in the wine) is not permitted. Though it might seem counterintuitive, studies have shown that intinction is actually more likely to spread infection than sipping from the cup.

If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. To indicate your desire for a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest when you step forward.

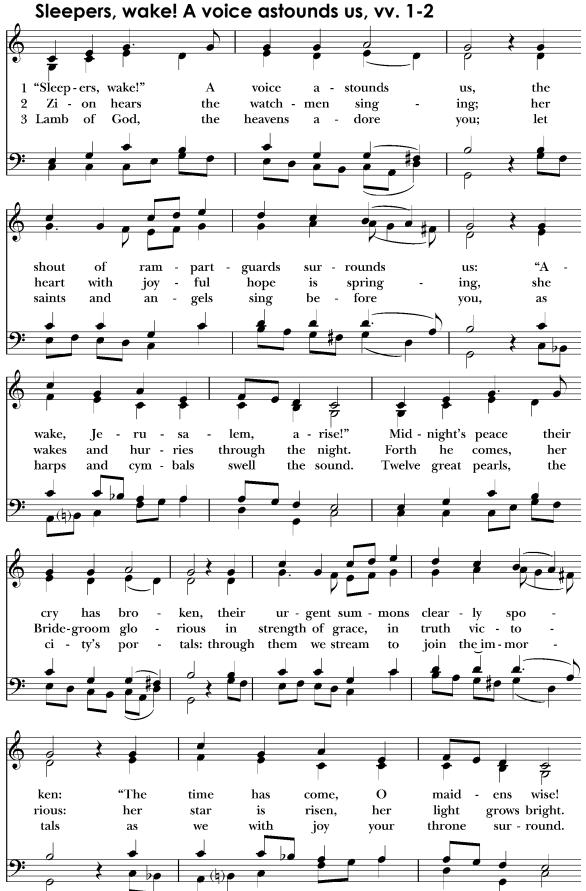
If you are worshiping at home and not able to come to church for Communion, you are invited to pray this prayer:

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is able to be celebrated, and especially with all those in this Diocese and in the Redeemer community who, for the sake of health and wholeness, cannot gather at this time, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

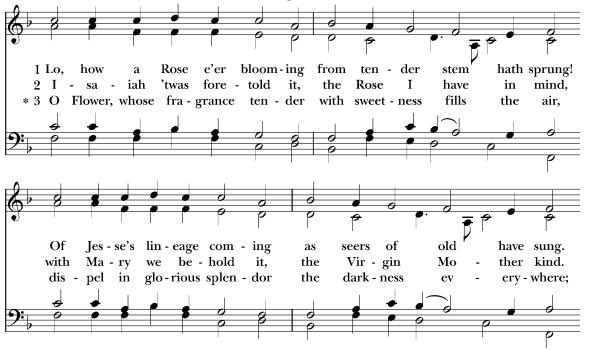
Dec. 3

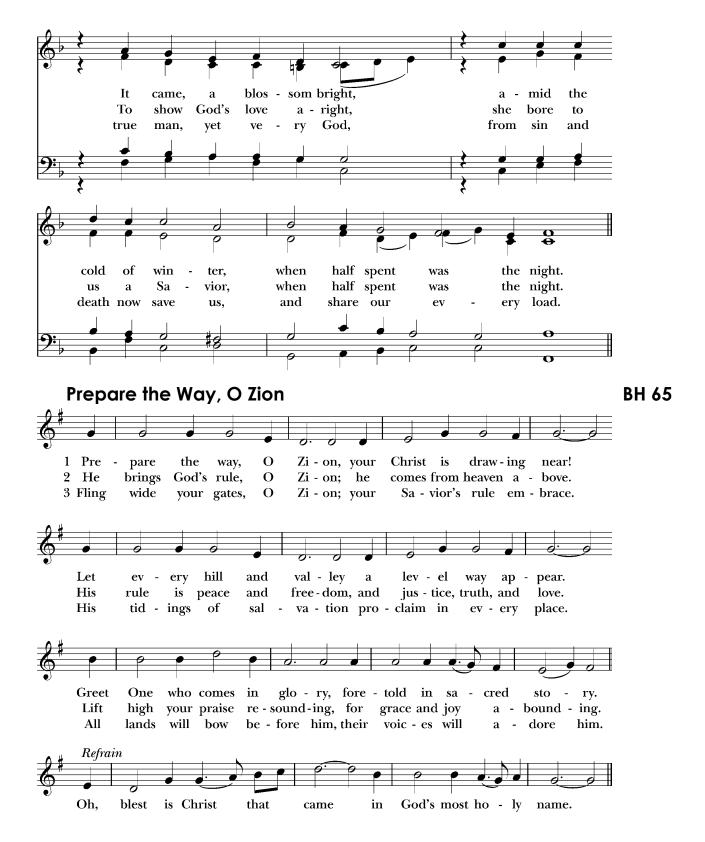












Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, pg. 366

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Advent Blessing

Celebrant: Our Lord says, "I am coming soon."

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, be

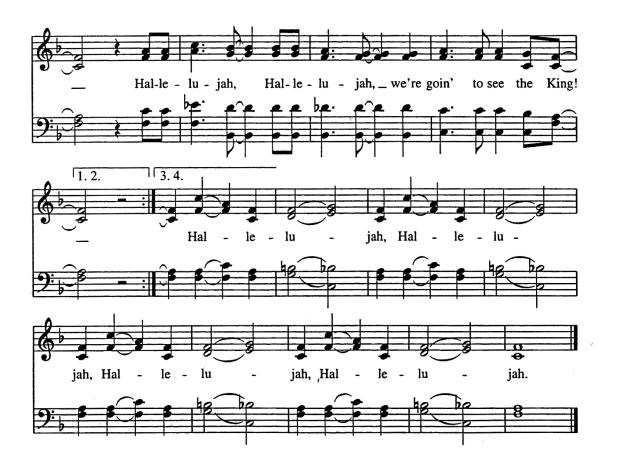
upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Announcements



Dec. 3



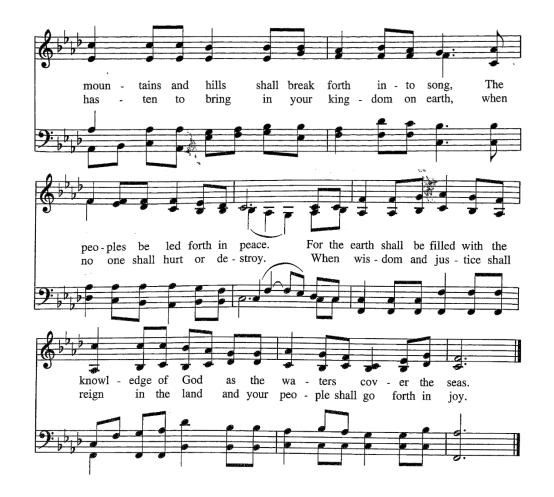


Isaiah the prophet has written of old

WLP 723



Dec. 17



Dismissal

Celebrant: As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve

the Lord.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Dec. 3 Chorale "Jesu my life"

F. W. Zachau

Dec. 17 Selection, Guest Organist Carol Dixon



The Rev. Megan Holding, Rector
The Rev. Emily J. García, Assistant Rector
Dr. Bernadette Colley, Music Director
Ellen L. Weene, Parish Administrator
Jack and Elaine Cornell, Sextons



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