

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We pray together with those who are unable to receive communion.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though not everyone can consume these gifts of bread and wine with us today, we thank you that we have received Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion and resurrection. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we embody your love, be renewed for your service, and be reflections of the awakened and risen Lord. Amen.

All baptized persons, regardless of denomination or church membership, are welcome to come forward and receive the Holy Bread. You are welcome to be seated until you come forward to receive. The ushers will guide you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *standing or kneeling*
Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated. The ushers will guide dismissal by pews.

Postlude: *Variations On a Swiss Noel* Louis-Claude Daquin

Lay Reader: 10:00 Sean Little

Ushers: Marigene Little, Samantha Ellis, Jim Donnelly

Audio/Visual: Lee Adams, Bill Miller

Cantor: Bill Miller

WELCOME VISITORS: We extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. If you would like to know more about our church, visit our website where you will also find links to our YouTube channels. You may also email us and we will be in touch, or you may remain seated in your pew after the service and the Rector will come to speak with you. We are glad you are here.

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Our mission: Offering Hope, Healing and Hospitality



CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*It is our custom to observe a prayerful silence before the service begins.
During the service, please feel free to stand or kneel as you are able.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 13, 2020

Welcome and thank you for wearing your masks while inside the building. The Lector, Soloist, and Officiant will remove masks only when speaking. During hymns we will remain seated. You are invited to silently read and meditate on the words during the hymns. For your responses, in bold print, please do respond quietly, God will hear you! At the end of the service, please be seated to wait for the ushers to direct you toward the exit. We will exit by pews out of the side door near the pulpit, beginning with the front pew on the left side. After the left side has departed, ushers will guide the right side of the church down the center aisle and across the front of the sanctuary to the exit. We appreciate your patience.

10:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION RITE II – with music

The Word of God

Prelude: *Noel for the Flutes* Louis-Claude Daquin

Opening Acclamation *standing*
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Please be seated.

Hymn 59 Hark! a thrilling voice Merton
*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."*

*Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;*

*so when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.*

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Standing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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.**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *sitting see scripture insert*

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader *The Word of the Lord*

People *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: *standing*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Robin Teasley

Hymn 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*

Psalm 42

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;

comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;

tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,

calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;

let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:

let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;

and all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

The Nicene Creed *standing*

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 *standing or kneeling*

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, keep us awake, be our strength and consolation, and reign in our hearts that your Son Jesus Christ may find in us a mansion prepared for himself.

We pray for the Church, that through it your light would cast away the works of darkness. Help us to bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, and comfort all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

O God, give us grace to heed the prophets and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be known in every heart.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty God, you have done great things for us, and holy is your Name. In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we remember: Jimmy & Carolyn Thacker, Lee & Sarah Thacker, and Norma Tietjen. Sanctify us entirely, O God of peace, that we might rejoice in you always.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low.

We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, especially Robyn Arrington, Diane Basta, Yvonne Butler, Langley Curry, Ronnie Elder, Lucy Hallman, Hillary Hettinger, Stacy Hettinger, Theresa Hettinger, Horace Higgins, Dianne Holloman, Jim Hunter, Rawn Hyatt, Sharon Plymire, Lilly Rudd, Yava Scott, Mark Sheffield, Patricia Thorpe, Larry Tucker, and Cameron Wilson. *pause*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. We thank you for the comfort you give to your people, drawing near with redemption and life everlasting for those who have died.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Hear our prayers, loving God, and let it be with us according to your word. When the Son of Man comes among us in clouds with great power and glory, and in silent nights in lowly mangers, may we recognize his face and his voice and adore him. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*pause*)

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.

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

The Peace *standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Greeting and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offering plates are not passed during the service but may be found at the entrance and exit tables, or you may mail in your offering or give online.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B *standing*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

standing

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; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.