

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 18, 2011—10:00 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two The Order of Service

Organ Prelude

The Word of God

Those who are able are invited to stand for the procession.

Hymn **Hymnal No. 66**
Come thou long expected Jesus
Prayer Book, p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for
ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says
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.

The following hymn sung [Hymnal S-96]
**Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people
The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
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 Lessons **See Insert**
The People are seated.

Hymn **Hymnal No. 444**
Blessed by the God of Israel

The Holy Gospel **See Insert**
Response at the beginning of the Gospel:
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Response after the Gospel.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon Mr. Bruce Jackson
Awe and Mystery Foretold

Those who are able stand for

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from
God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for
our salvation he came down from heaven: by the
power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from
the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the third day he rose**

again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People [p. 388]

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Confession of Sin [p. 360]

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Those who are able are invited to kneel.

Minister and People

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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome, Birthdays (p. 830), and Anniversaries (p. 431); Announcements

The Holy Communion

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Anthem

A Voice Cries Out, "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
... by Lloyd Larson

The Great Thanksgiving [p. 361]

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People [Hymnal S-130]

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

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,

Celebrant and People

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist and 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,

People and Celebrant

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 [p. 364]

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then is sung [Hymnal S-155]

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized persons are invited to receive
the Holy Communion at our Lord's Table.*

Anthem

Breath of Heaven . . . arr. Lloyd Larson

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Celebrant and People

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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, blesses the people.

The Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn **Hymnal No. 56**

O come, O come Emmanuel (vss.1-4)

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude

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