

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 28 November 2021 ♦ 10:00 AM
Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL



GATHERING TOGETHER

WELCOME

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Presider Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

THE ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed are you, ✠ holy and living One:
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider 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.**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

Response



Re - mem - ber your mer - cies, O Lord.

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 2 My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 3 Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- 4 Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. *Response*
- 6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 8 You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.
- 9 You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way. *Response*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

LLANGLOFFAN



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

REFLECTION

Chris Pierce

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people kneel or stand for the Prayers.

Reader In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people
and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to
proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts
to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks,
the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May
we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy
is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all
peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders
in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait.
Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs,
retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, and for the work of relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Presider God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentence

*We thank God for every gift which helps continue the mission and ministries of Grace Church.
To give electronically, please scan the QR code or follow the link to our giving platform. Thank you!*



<http://www.gracehinsdale.org/give>

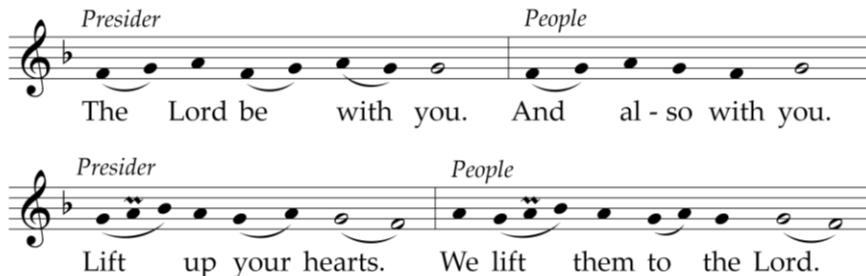
The Iona Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here for a long time or ever before;
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Presider and the People. The Presider part is a single melodic line starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5. The People part is a single melodic line starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is also for the Presider and the People. The Presider part is a single melodic line starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5. The People part is a single melodic line starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5. The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord."

Presider

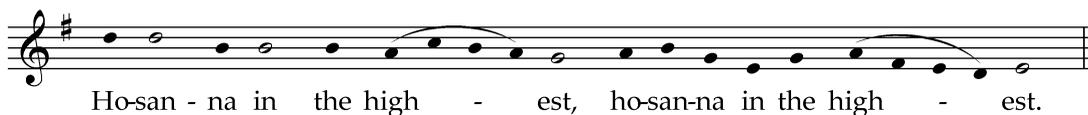
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

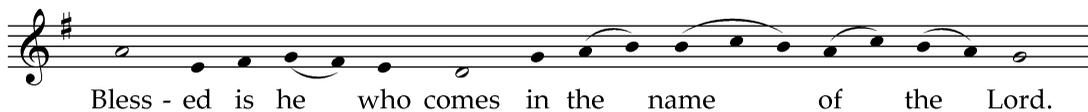
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider Blessed are you, God of David, for your faithfulness is steadfast
and your mercy has been from of old.
You draw your people to you with your promise of salvation,
and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill.
From the house of David you raised up your Messiah
to restore Judah and to herald that your deliverance was near.
In your Son's righteousness we find our life:
for his righteousness was more than enough for your people
who had waited so long for justice,
who had yearned so long for redemption,
who had trusted so long in your grace.
Truly in his righteousness is fulfilled
every hope of salvation in every generation.
By his death we can stand justified before you;
and through his resurrection we can share your holy life for ever.
And so with angels and archangels, we praise your name,
joining the company of heaven in their unending hymn.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - ry.



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est.

Presider

God of glory, for whose coming we wait,
make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near.
Send your Holy Spirit upon your church:
strengthen our hearts in all holiness
that we may be heralds of your kingdom.
By your same Spirit, sanctify this bread and cup,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a-gain.

Presider

God of power, you have promised to make your way to us:
come quickly to those who wait for you.

Raise up every head that is bent low in sin.

Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame.

Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression.

Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day
when justice and mercy meet.

Bring us through all that is passing away

to the life that shall never pass away,

when every eye shall be lifted up to gaze upon your Son

in everlasting glory with all your saints,

and when the redemption for which we have longed

shall forever be ours, in the company of your Son

and the power of your Spirit, holy Father, blessed Trinity.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider

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

All

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

The bread is broken. Silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

From a sermon by St. Augustine

Presider Behold what you are;
People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

Communion Anthem “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” arr. Alan Hommerding

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the Day is drawing nigh.
Wake, awake, night is flying! Wake, awake, the day is drawing nigh!

Children don't get weary, 'til your work is done.
Christian, rest in Jesus, 'til your work is done.

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All

**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.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

MERTON



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn-ing, from earth's bon - dage let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heav'n;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - giv'n;
may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

THE DISMISSAL

The preacher offers a dismissal, and the people respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

How do we deal with difficult Bible passages when we encounter them?

How do we deal with passages which historically have been used by others to vilify groups of people—passages that may seem to condone exclusion or condemnation of groups we may perceive as “other than us”? Everyone looks at scripture through a lens of some kind—a lens which will subsequently help shape the way they approach a given passage and ultimately interpret it.

We use the Baptismal Covenant as our lens, specifically “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to strive for justice and peace among all people.” (See the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304.) Through the Covenant, we understand how we are called to follow Christ and approach the difficult biblical passages with this knowledge in mind.

Why use incense in worship?

Incense has a long history in Christianity, Judaism and other religions. It adds our noses to the multi-sensory experience of worship. The psalmist expresses the symbolism of incense and prayer: “Let my prayer rise like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

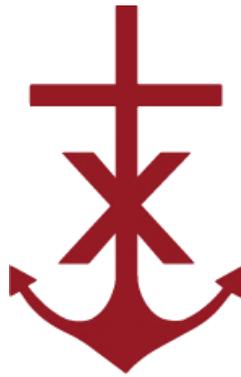
The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification. The sweet smell suggests Christ's righteousness that covers sin. In some traditions, incense is used to honor holy things and holy people (the gathered people, that is, the body of Christ). The altar/table, the bread and wine, the ministers and the assembly may be “censed” as a way of showing their importance in the liturgy. Incense adds a festive accompaniment to processions, creating “holy clouds” and “holy smells” in the air.

The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers, stained glass, or a room/building can lead us to ponder the mystery of God's presence. Incense in worship is an ancient practice that connects us to the Church around the world and through the ages.

Acknowledgements

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*Welcome to the transformative power
of Christ's love;
if you're here, you belong!*



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