



Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist at the Church of St. Paul, Cambria

• 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT • December 18, 2022

Four candles are lit on the Advent Wreath

V: Our King and Savior draws near.

R: **Oh come, let us adore Him.**

Oh Lord, come among us, and with your great might help us. Although we are hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy will help us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oh, Lord Jesus, the light of all who love you, help our families to make ready for your coming by preparing room for you in our hearts. Let no selfishness darken our homes. Let no unkind feeling separate us. Draw us closer together by drawing us closer to you in your perfect way. Amen.

Opening Hymn 76

Arise, O Lord into your resting place, you and the ark of your strength. (Psalm 132:8)

Send your spirit of forgiveness down upon us, as we confess our transgressions and failures to keep your commandments. Open our eyes to oppression, brokenness, and captivity of all kinds. That we may freely confess your goodness and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, let us confess our sins before our neighbors and our God.

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.

Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: **Come let us adore him.**

Jubilate: Psalm 100

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving: go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

Lessons Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Canticle K: A Song of Our Adoption Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, * for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, * that we should be holy and blameless before you.

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, * according to the good pleasure of your will,

To the praise of your glorious grace, * that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, * the forgiveness of our sins,

According to the riches of your grace * which you have lavished upon us.

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, * the mystery of your will,

According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, * as a plan for the fullness of time,

To gather together all things in Christ, * things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be. Amen.

The Second Lesson Epistle Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the

holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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

Canticle R: A Song of True Motherhood Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things * and so made the foundation of his work, most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all, * arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh * to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; * our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail, * until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, * still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, * for the love of Christ works in us; Christ is the one whom we love.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now and ever will be. Amen.

A reading from the **Gospel** according to **Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Here ends the Gospel reading.

Here follows 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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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.**

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray

you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Sermon

Canon Mark Hall

Sermon Music

The Prayers of the People

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ, saying: O God, who is with us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

We offer prayers for Susie, Julian, Mike, Coralee and Jennifer D. We offer prayers for incarcerated men, women, and children throughout the world. We offer prayers for widows and orphans. We offer prayers for Liz, healing prayers for Craig, and Thanksgiving for a loving family and church family. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayers.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen Christ. **Amen.**

Offertory: Walk in love as Christ loved us and offered himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *(Ephesians)*

Offertory Hymn 56 Verses 7 & 8

Prayer over the gifts Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (EP A)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
(Repeat) **Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**
Hosanna in the highest *(Repeat)* **Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest** *(Repeat)*.

(The People stand or kneel.)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father,...

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 taught us, we are bold to pray (sung):

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

They will come from east and west and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God: Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lord.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Savior. Let us pray.

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.

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** *Greet one another in the Lord's name.*

Announcements

Thanksgiving Prayer: We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

Closing Hymn 724 (WLP)

Dismissal: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.