



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

• The Second Sunday in Advent, Year C • December 8, 2024 •

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath (second candle)

Dear friends in Christ, on this Second Sunday of Advent, our attention is turned to the great figure of John the Baptist. John calls us out to the desert, proclaiming a time of repentance and renewal, for the day of the Lord is at hand.

As we light two candles on the Advent wreath, let us prepare ourselves through prayer and penance. Let us open a way for the Lord to come into our lives.

### Opening Hymn 53

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.  
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.**

In this and every year, in this and every place, O God everlasting, your word resounds in the wilderness of Advent, calling us to stand upon the height and to behold the splendor of your beauty. Fill in the valleys of our neglect; bring low our mountains of self-centeredness. Prepare in our hearts your way of righteousness and peace. Assist us in making our love a harvest of goodness, as we confess our sins against you and our neighbors.

*Silence may be kept. 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.**

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.

Look up and raise your heads,  
**because your redemption is drawing near.**

**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.**

### Psalm 67:1-5 *Deus misereatur*

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, \* show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, \* your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \* let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \* for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \* let all the peoples praise you.

### Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \* he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \* born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \* from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \* and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \* to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \* for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \* and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Lesson** prophet Baruch (5:1-9)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle G: A Song of Ezekiel** *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you from among all nations; \* and gather you from all lands to bring you home.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you; \* and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you \* and a new spirit put within you.

I will take the stone heart from your chest \* and give you a heart of flesh.

I will help you walk in my laws \* and cherish my commandments and do them.

You shall be my people, \* and I will be your God.

The **second lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Phillipians (1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this

way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle J: A Song of Judith** *Judith 16:13-16*

I will sing a new song to my God, \* or you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.

Let the whole creation serve you, \* for you spoke and all things came into being.

You sent your breath and it formed them, \* no one is able to resist your voice.

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, \* rocks melt like wax at your presence.

But to those who fear you, \* you continue to show mercy.

No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, \* but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

The Holy **Gospel** of our Lord according to Saint Luke (3:1-6)

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

Sermon Music

*Here follows the affirmation of faith, (from NZ BCP)*

**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**

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: may our eyes be open to the beauty around us, the subtle changes in the sky, the delicate coating of soil from which breaks forth our food and flowers and in which animals make their home. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the church in every place: may we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, the national, international, and ecumenical church of every race, nation and economic circumstance. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called friends of Christ. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in authority: Let us pray for Christians who witness in places hostile to the gospel, and let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of nations that Christ may transform strangers into friends that all may see your salvation. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for

what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed, for the sick and those who struggle to regain their strength, for those among us with the longest memories to link us to the past, and for the newborn, in whose baptism our baptism is again renewed. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who risk their lives and health on behalf of our nation: May we uphold them with our prayers, and may their efforts with our support bring peace and justice in a broken world. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### **Offertory Hymn 56 v 3 & 5**

*Prayer over the gifts:* God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving (EP C)**

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 him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law.

And in the fullness of time you sent you only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***By his blood, he reconciled us.***

***By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say (or sing),

**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, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*the Celebrant says the following*

Behold the Lord whose advent we await, who will come with glory on the day of judgment. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

**Communion of the People**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living 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 spiritual and grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to the reality that Christ is present with us wherever we are. **Amen.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Anniversary/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 76**

Go forth in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**