



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

• The Third Sunday in Advent, Year C • December 15, 2024 •

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (third candle)

Dear friends in Christ, on this Third Sunday of Advent, we are invited to rejoice in the Lord, for he is near. In anticipation of the joy of Christmas, we light three candles on the Advent wreath, recalling that joy is one of the surest signs of God's presence among us.

Opening Hymn 57

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.**

Penitential Rite

Lord our God, already in our midst and yet to come, your presence delights us even now as we long for your peace. Winnow from our lives the chaff of selfishness and sin. Sow in us a harvest of gentleness and generosity. Weed our hearts for a growth 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.

Our King and Savior now draws near;
Come let us adore him.

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.

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.

Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah (12:2-6)

Surely, it is God who saves me; * I will trust in him and not be afraid

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
* and he will be my Savior. Refrain

And on that day you shall say, * Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name.

Make his deeds known among the peoples; * see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Refrain

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, * and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, * for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. Refrain
and testimonies.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 Lesson prophet Zephaniah (3:14-20)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your

God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; * for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: * the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, * for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.
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** is from the Letter of Paul to the Phillippians (4:4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Canticle S: A Song of Our True Nature *Julian of Norwich*

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, * our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power, * his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need; * he raises us in spirit and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature; * God is the true father and mother of natures.

We are all bound to God by nature, * and we are all bound to God by grace. And this grace is for all the world, * because it is our precious mother, Christ.

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ for the honor and nobility of all, * and for the joy and bliss of salvation.

The Holy **Gospel** of our Lord according to Saint Luke (3:7-18)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God for that peace so much greater than we can imagine, saying: Quicken your Spirit within us; O Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world: May the wars on every continent cease, may nations be at peace, may refugees and survivors find a new home and the spirit to begin again. May wounds be healed, losses grieved, and honorable deeds remembered. May grace abound in all lands, and the lion and the lamb lie content. (silence) Quicken your Spirit within us, **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: May we let go of our vested interests and inspired by your Spirit seek peace with one another. Help us give up the grievances we harbor within our families and communities and among our co-workers and friends. Help us build trust, the cornerstone of all reconciled relationships. (silence) Quicken your Spirit within us, **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace where we live, work and recreate, and for peace within ourselves: May the noises in and around us diminish so that we can hear the sounds of the trees, the birds, the winds, and the rain. Give us space and time to hear ourselves, to feel our own feelings and express our own longings, knowing that the only one true longing is your longing for us. (silence) Quicken your Spirit within us, **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our young people: Let us provide space for them in our midst, and time to reassure them in their insecurities, encourage them in their hopes, and ever strengthen them in their gifts. (silence) Quicken your Spirit within us, **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the elderly and the infirm: We give thanks for the health and long life that many enjoy, and we pray for those who are overcome with suffering in body and spirit. Help us comfort one another and share with one another, knowing that whatever we ask for in prayer, those needs will be satisfied. (silence) Quicken your Spirit within us, **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who risk their lives and health on behalf of our nation: May they be kept safe under the shadow of your wings as they strive for peace and justice. (silence) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of your peace and in the name of 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 5 & 6

Prayer over the gifts: God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving B

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.

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,
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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love . . .

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, . . .

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.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us:

**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 74

The Lord's coming is close at hand. Go forth in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.