

Liturgy for November 30, 2025: First Sunday of Advent

Processional Hymn #433 We Gather Together

¹ We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.

² Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

³ We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Priest: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins;
People: His mercy endures forever.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer (*Said by all*)

As we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope. Hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise. Let us light the Candle of Hope.

Kyrie (*Sung*) Hymnal, S92

Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

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.

A Reading from Isaiah 2:1-5 read by Sabina Gaston

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 122 Laetatus sum To be read responsively, led by Sabina Gaston

I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Romans 13:11-14 Read by Sharon DeVivo

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn 601 O Day of God Draw Nigh (*Verses 1-2, Gospel, Verses 3-4*)

¹ O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power,
come with thy timeless judgement now
to match our present hour.

² Bring to our troubled minds
uncertain and afraid,
the quite of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

³ Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

⁴ Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more
and desolation cease.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 24:36-44

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ (Remain standing)*

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ*

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Varghese Mathew

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.

Litany for the Holy Land led by Larry Wolf *(See Insert)*

Prayer for Sound Government led by Sharon DeVivo

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen

Prayers of the People (remain standing): Led by Sharon DeVivo

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially.....

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life—those we name in our hearts, and also for those celebrating birthdays, including.....

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially.....

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you

Silence.

The Priest adds a Concluding Prayer

The Confession and Absolution (*please kneel as you are able*)

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.

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be also with you
People And also with you

Announcements and Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Offertory Anthem *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* John Franklin, bass

Doxology (*please stand*) “Old Hundredth”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all people here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving BCP p. 361 (Eucharistic Prayer A)

Priest The Lord be with you
People *And also with you*
Priest Lift up your hearts
People *We lift them up to the Lord*
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise*

Priest continues with Eucharistic Prayer A

Sanctus (*Sung Hymnal S 131*)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation (*Sung, Hymnal S 135*)

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

Amen (*Sung Hymnal S 147*)

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei (Sung) Hymnal S 157

Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion Hymn 290 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

¹Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home:
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest-home.

²All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown:
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be

³For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

⁴Even so, Lord, quickly come,
to thy final harvest-home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, for ever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels come,
raise the glorious harvest-home.

Communion Hymn 68 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

¹Rejoice! rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation!
at the midnight comes the cry.

²See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory,
the Bridegroom is at hand!

³ Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!

Post-Communion Prayer (Kneel)

Book of Common Prayer p. 365

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

Dismissal

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Closing Hymn 494 Crown Him With Many Crowns

¹ Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing of him
who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

² Crown him the Son of God
before the worlds began,
and ye, who tread where he hath trod,
crown him the Son of man;
who every grief hath known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.

³ Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die

⁴ Crown him of lords the Lord,
who over all doth reign,
who once on earth, the incarnate Word,
for ransomed sinners slain,
now lives in realms of light,
where saints with angels sing
their songs before him day and night,
their God, Redeemer, King.

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia