



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 • 10am

Welcome to St. Paul's! We are grateful for your presence in worship and look forward to welcoming you into this life we share through the love of Jesus Christ! Please don't forget to silence your devices as our worship service begins.

Families are welcome to sit anywhere they would like, including in our dedicated children's area in the Chapel, which features self-directed activities and books. An all-gender restroom and a ladies' room are located in the Parish Hall on the Occidental Avenue side of the church campus. Children's Chapel activities also take place in that building on Sundays featuring those group offerings. Our worship service is live-streamed on St. Paul's YouTube Channel, where we welcome online friends to pray with us.

All are warmly invited to participate in Holy Communion at St. Paul's. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest as the Eucharistic Minister greets you saying, "the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation." Thank you for sharing the light of your presence with our community! May God's presence be very near to you in this holy season!

Prelude

Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ (Schübler Chorale, BWV 649)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

All stand to sing

Processional Hymn

“O come, O come, Emmanuel,” *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



1. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
2. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny
3. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heaven-ly home;
4. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,



1. dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
2. that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
3. make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
4. that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

A Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, whose coming we await, you invite us into the light of your presence: Illumine the dim places of our hearts and in our world. We long for your reign of mercy, justice, and compassion. Draw near to us and strengthen us to strain in hope toward your redemption. **Amen.**

Advent Scripture

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.

All are invited to sing the Kyrie during the lighting of the Advent wreath.

Kyrie Eleison

The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971)

Lord, have — mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have — mer - cy,

Christ, have — mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy,

Lord, — have — mer - cy.

p

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.**

The people are seated. Children are invited to process out to participate in Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

After the reading, the reader says

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

O Radix Jesse O Roote of Jesse

O Antiphon, 6th-Century Chant



Cantor sings **REFRAIN**. All sing **REFRAIN**.

Cantor sings the O Antiphon chant in Latin:

O Radix Jesse,
qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:
Veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse,
standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, delay no longer.

All sing **REFRAIN**.

The Second Lesson

Romans 15: 4-13

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

After the reading, the reader says

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand.

Alleluia

Cantor sings ALLELUIA. All sing ALLELUIA.



Cantor Come and deliver us, delay no longer.

All sing ALLELUIA.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to

After the Gospel, the reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Rev. Sarah C. Stewart

All stand to say

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 of the People

Hear Our Prayer

Holy God, yours is the voice that calls from the places we least expect, inviting us into ever deeper relationship with you that we might live surrounded by your love. Hear now our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for Christ's church, that we may never become settled in comfort but that we might always be on pilgrimage serving those we encounter. We especially lift up the Church of Bangladesh in the Anglican Communion and St. Clement's, Berkeley and St. Ambrose, Foster City in the Diocese of California.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who hold authority over us, that they might escape from their fears and hatreds and govern in the glory of your mercy and wisdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each other in this parish community, that we might discern our own calls to be Christ in all the places our day-to-day lives take us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the natural world and for our own stewardship of creation, that we might be advocates for actions needed to leave an abundant creation to future generations.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of healing and relief from their burdens, worries, and fears. Especially we pray for Janet Bock, Rodney Gehrke, Michael Kimball, Sonny Liu, Ray Loughrey, Jen Norman, Katy Pessner, Linda Pittman, Jim Prescott, Parker Quickert, Craig Tam, and John Coltrane Taumoepeau.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, hasten the day of Christ's return that we might be reunited with all whom we have loved but see no more.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you entered into our world and blessed our lives through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, your son and our Lord. Bless us still as we strive to become the people we were meant to be. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Absolution

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

May the God of peace make you whole and holy, ever ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and then are seated.

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort, Johann Wolfgang Franck (1644-1719)

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne'er in sorrow pine,
My heart and soul, yea, all my being, O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.
Thou Prince of Peace, Thou Pearl from heaven, True God, true Man, My Morning Star!
O come, Thou precious, Sun most radiant, Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

O Jesus, with Thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind.
In true humility I welcome Thee, Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.
My thoughts, desires, and all my longings I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.
O come, Thou precious, Sun most radiant, Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

~ Wilhelm Osterwald (1820-1887), translated from the German by Walter E. Buszin

Ushers, with any young people who wish to help, bring forward communal gifts of money to the Holy Table, as symbols of the thanks and praise we offer God.

All stand to sing

Presentation Hymn 597

“O day of peace,” *Jerusalem*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The staves are labeled 'Celebrant' and 'People'.

Staff 1: Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Staff 2: Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

All sing
Sanctus

The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

mp
Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

6 *cresc.* *mf*
God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-

9 *f* *mf* *f*
san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

13 *mp*
high-est. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,

16 *p* *mf* *f*
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, ho - san - na, ho-

20 *mf* *f*
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, giving thanks for God's work of redemption through Jesus Christ and consecrating the bread and wine for Holy Communion. The people join in sacramental witness, speaking to the mystery of God's saving grace.

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues with prayers of thanksgiving and concludes with this phrase of invitation to the Great Amen.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Most Blessed One, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer *All are invited to sing*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)



Our Fa - ther who art in heav'n, hal-low'd be thy name. Thy



king-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n. Give



us this day our dai - ly bread. And for -



give us our tres-pas-ses, As we for - give those who tres-pass a - gainst us.



And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,



But de - liv - er us from e - vil.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

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

Invitation to Communion

The Celebrant lifts the bread and wine saying,

The gifts of God for the people of God. If you feel drawn to this table, let nothing keep you away.

All who are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive communion at St. Paul's. Please follow the usher's invitation to receive the bread (gluten free wafers available upon request) and wine at the altar rails. If you would like a blessing instead of the Eucharist, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Anthem

Mother of God, here I stand, John Tavener (1944-2013)

*Mother of God, here I stand now praying,
Before this icon of your radiant brightness,
Not praying to be saved from a battlefield;
Not giving thanks, nor seeking forgiveness
For the sins of my soul, nor for all the souls
Numb, joyless and desolate on earth;
But for her alone, whom I wholly give you.*

~ Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841)

All stand as the Celebrant invites,

Let us pray.

Loving Creator, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

O God, you have set before us a great hope that your kingdom will come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming. Make us ready to thank you for the signs of its dawning, and to work as we wait for that perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. As we await Christ's coming in glory, may the eternal God enfold us with love, fill us with peace, and lead us in hope. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

Amen.

Hymn 65

“Prepare the way,” *Bereden väg för Herran*

Dismissal

As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter auf Erden (Schübler Chorale, BWV 650)
J. S. Bach

