



The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10am

Prelude

Opening Hymn #495 ~ *Hail Thou once despised Jesus*

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor: life is given through thy Name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid:
by almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading: there thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding, till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power, and blessing thou art worthy to receive;
highest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, all your noblest anthems raise;
help to sing our Savior's merits, help to chant Emmanuel's praise!

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.
People: **Justice and righteousness will fill the land.**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

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.

The Old Testament

[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. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Psalm *(Let us say it responsively)*

[Psalm 25:1-9](#)

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)
Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (3x)

The Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

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.

Prayers of the People

Walk in Love: Prayers of the People for Stewardship Season

Leader: As we prepare to bring our gifts to the altar, let us raise our voices in prayer and praise, thanking God for the opportunity to walk in love together.

Leader: We pray for the Church: for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Julia and Carol, the Bishops of this Diocese, and John our priest. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we also pray for Churches of the Alewife Deanery: Church of Our Saviour, Arlington, St. John's Church, Arlington, the Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, The Standing Committee, and the Brotherhood of St. Gregory.

As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Leader: I bid your prayers for our Country and for all nations; for all refugees, for an end to hostilities, for a spirit of Goodwill. We pray for those recently elected to public office, and for leaders who serve with compassion and justice.

As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Leader: I ask your prayers for our neighbors, for the mission of our church and the ways we change the world with our gifts. We pray for all who enter this place seeking encouragement, love, and peace.

As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Leader: I invite your prayers for those who are sick, who are isolated, or who are in despair. We pray for caregivers and healers who care for those we love. Please pray for those commended to us, and whom we now name either silently or aloud...; Elin Babin, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, Don DiGiacomo, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Lori, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroli, Bill Pimentel, Kathy Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Dom Tello, Joanie Tello, Jill Vaccaro & Family, Kathy, Viviana, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Walter, Lizzi, and Rachel. *Are there others...*

As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Leader: We pray for departed family and friends, especially Anna, Peter, and Myron Manoogian, Joseph & Jean McBride, James & Doris Smith, Mary & Joseph Pothier, and Carol & William Cox, and Robert Lancaster; the compassionate Almighty has welcomed them into his glorious kingdom.

As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Leader: I invite your celebrations, remembrances, and the naming of our many blessings, innumerable and filled with Grace.

silence ...

May we be inspired to share our wealth, works, and wisdom with our neighbors and our Church
As Christ loved us,

We walk in love.

Concluding prayer

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Invitation for Offering

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Doxology

1982 Hymnal #380 vs. 3 only

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Creator God, may these gifts honor the work you have given us to do here in this place. May we bless, break, and share these gifts of time, talent, and treasure with our neighbors, walking in love as you have walked with us. *Amen.*

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Officiant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Officiant proceeds

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 your 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:

Officiant and People

**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.

Officiant 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,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S155~Christ, our Passover

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table, and everyone is welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Anthem

Post-communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have made us a royal priesthood in the kingdom of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Make known his victory through us, we pray, that the world may see his light. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Officiant Let us pray.

People **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.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn #686 ~ *Come, thou fount of every Blessing*

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither, by thy help, I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how a great debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for the courts above.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Announcements/Reminders

Christmas & Craft Fair

The fair is just days away! Please bring any donations to the church this week. Once again, thank you to those who have already contributed to the yard sale, raffle baskets, and other items...your generosity makes all the difference. ☺

Reminder: Christmas Altar Decorating

After worship on **Sunday December 22nd**, volunteers are invited to assist in decorating the altar for Christmas. Contact Steve White if you would like to help - thank you!

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Denise Beneteau, Worship Leader ~ Colleen Marcotte, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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