

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 28, 2021

The Liturgy of the Word

Choral Introit

Please Stand

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep shadow, on them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

Almighty God, grant that the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, may so light our whole lives that we need never walk in the darkness. Amen.

All stand as are able

Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high

Who orderest all things mightily;

To us the path of knowledge show,

And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations bind

In one the hearts of humankind

Bid thou our sad divisions cease,

And be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Presider

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines Within Us

Jacques Berthier

Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.

Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.

**Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love. (sung 3x)**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.*

Please be seated for the lessons

First Lesson read by

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

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."

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 25:1-9 read in unison

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.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, *

and teach me your paths.

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.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

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.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Lesson **read by**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the Gospel procession and reading

Sequence Hymn **Signs of Ending All Around Us**

Can it be that from our endings, new beginning you create?

Life from death, and from our rendings, realms of wholeness generate?

Take our fears, then Lord and turn them into hopes for life anew:

Fading light and dying season, sing their Glorias to you.

The Holy Gospel

Before the Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

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

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Dr. Pilar Jennings

Please stand and say together

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.

The Prayers of the People

led by

God of mystery and miracles,
Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;
Your presence gives us strength to endure
when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and,
with love beyond our imagining,
you lead us home.

All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.
Yet, we resist you.
We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives.
We hesitate to trust you
for you may lead us where we do not want to go.

You know the places in our hearts
and in our minds
where we are well-defended
against your intrusions.

In this season of longing, of awaiting, of looming darkness and coming joy,
grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ
— all the broken places
— all the lost wanderings
— all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Grant us grace to overcome our own weariness to respond with generosity and love to our neighbors:

Our neighbors we know, and those whose names we will never know;
Our neighbors who are hungry or homeless;
Our neighbors who are suffering from mental illness or addiction;
Our neighbors who are dying or sick;
Our neighbors who are lonely or grieving;
Our neighbors at PS 15.

Hold us all in the fullness of your love.
Then, be born in us,
that we may find our home,
our life,
our joy
in You, Lord of light and love.

Dear people of God I invite you to offer your prayers and thanksgivings.

You are invited to speak your intercessions aloud or to type them in the chat.

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

All **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**

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you!**

The Holy Communion

This is God's Table: all are welcome

Offertory Anthem

Please stand

Doxology

Old Hundredth

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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... 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:

Presider and People sing together,

The Sanctus LEVAS II 255 (*Mass for a Soulful People*)

Grayson Warren Brown

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest

The Presider continues,

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People,

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Bishop continues,

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS II 264

A.H. Malotte

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Please remain standing and sing together

Fraction Anthem

S. Shull

We who are many, are one body,

For we all share in the one bread,

we all share in the one bread.

Please remain standing

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts for God for all of us, the people of God. Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem

Taste and See

James E. Moore, Jr

[Refrain] Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times. God's praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me.
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name. I called the Lord and God answered me; from all my troubles God set me free.
3. Worship the Lord all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that God is good; in God we need put all our trust.

All stand, and say together

Post Communion Prayer

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

**Recessional Hymn Lo! He comes, with clouds descending
Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

Holiday Singalong Sleigh Ride

**Just hear those sleigh bells jingling, ring-ting-tingling too
Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you
Outside the snow is falling and friends are calling "yoo hoo!"
Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you**

**Giddy yap, giddy yap, giddy yap let's go, let's look at the show
We're riding in a wonderland
Giddy yap, giddy yap, giddy yap it's grand, just holding your hand
We're riding along with a song of a wintery fairy land**

**Our cheeks are nice and rosy and comfy and cozy are we
We're snuggled up together like two birds of a feather would be
Let's take the road before us and sing a chorus or two
Come on, it's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you**

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

A prayer for Advent by Henri Nouwen

*Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.*

Weekly Announcements

Help Fill the Church with Song, Greens & Flowers this Season

As we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, we also prepare our church with greens, flowers and music. Please donate to support these efforts. Christmas Flower donation sheet, Christmas Music donation sheet are available in the back of the church. Donations can be made by check, cash or online.

Give a PS 15 Family Christmas!

This Christmas we will continue our support of PS 15 by giving gifts to children and their families. Sign ups are underway. Please see Maija VanRavenswaay after the service or email her at: maija.vanravenswaay@gmail.com.

Advent Book Group

This Advent we will read With Sighs Too Deep For Word: Grace and Depression by A. Robert Hirschfeld (available on Amazon and eBook). Stay in your PJs, bring your coffee or tea and come meet on Zoom Saturdays, December 4th, 11th & 18th at 8am. **Please sign up in the back of the church or by emailing Deacon John: revjohn@holypostlesbrooklyn.com**

Christmas Eve @ Holy Apostles

We will be distributing more detailed information in the coming weeks, but we are excited that we will be having 2 in person Christmas Eve services this year - they will be identical services at 4pm & 6pm with carols and full choir. The pageant will be the previous Sunday on December 19th. Reservations will be required as well as vaccines for ages 5 and up due to the fact that the church will be more full and masks for 2 and up. Sign up today after the service.