



First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
St Luke's Episcopal Church
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

A Prayer Before Worship

O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication:
Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind,
that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BCP = Book of Common Prayer, red book. H = The Hymnal, blue book

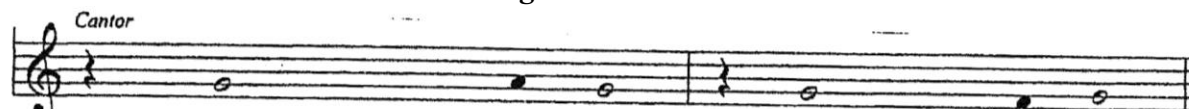
Prelude

Dolores McCreary


Lighting of the Advent Candles

Light One Candle


Cantor



1. He shall bring salvation to Isra - el, God fulfills his pro - mise.
2. He shall feed his flock like a shep - herd, and gently lead them home - ward.
3. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and the King of Glory shall come in.
4. Tell the glad news: Messiah is com - ing. Let your lights be shin - ing.



Light one can - dle to pray for the com - ing of Je - sus. May the
two can - dles
three can - dles
four can - dles



light of Christ Je - sus fill our hearts with God's Love.

Hymn "Blest Be the King Whose Coming Is In The Name of God!" H-74

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins; BCP 351
People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant reads the following sentence.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

The Priest, stands and says

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.**

When this Order is used at the beginning of the Liturgy, the service continues with the Kyrie eleison.

The Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Setting: from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert

The Collect of the Day

BCP 211

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

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 word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25: 1-10

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A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

"God of All People"

G-143

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Luke 21: 25-36

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."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Nicholas Phares

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

Intercessor

For our shepherds throughout the church; for +Sean the Presiding Bishop, +Poulson our Bishop, and Nick+, our Rector; that they maybe faithful to the cure of souls entrusted to them. Quicken their devotion and protect them with your holy angels.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may raise up in our own day leaders who will do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God so that all may dwell in safety and security.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Lord who is righteous and holy may through His grace provide a way back for sinners who seek his mercy. May the Lord richly bless who seek the sacrament of Reconciliation and give them peace.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for vigilance and strength to cast away the works of darkness, O God. May we who are wearied by the many changes and chances of this life find rest and peace in your eternal changelessness.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the paths of the Lord may be paved with kindness and constancy for those who are experiencing tribulation, illness, abandonment, loneliness, or grief. We pray especially for **Liz Green, Jim and Kate Carroll, Bob Baughman, Nan Buhlinger, Audrey Foote, Barbara Garrison, Jack Bridendolph, Bill Pendley, Marcie Zervas, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Margaret Holden, Rusty Cutts, and Carmen Staunton.**

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And finally, Lord, that our faithful departed may find rest and holiness in you, O God.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes with the prayers of the people with a collect.

The Peace

BCP 360

The Peace is then exchanged

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

Rev. Nick Phares

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

“Lo How a Rose E’re Blooming”

Choir

Arranged By Dale Adelman

A Prayer before Communion

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [] and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

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

**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

BCP 364



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert

Invitation to Communion

BCP 365

Communion

BCP 365

The Bread is given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation [Amen.]

A Prayer After Receiving Communion

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion: Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymn

“Now in This Banquet”

G-336

Post Communion Hymn

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

G-137

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.

The Blessing

BCP 366

Hymn “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

H-73

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

Antiphon- Ps. 25:3

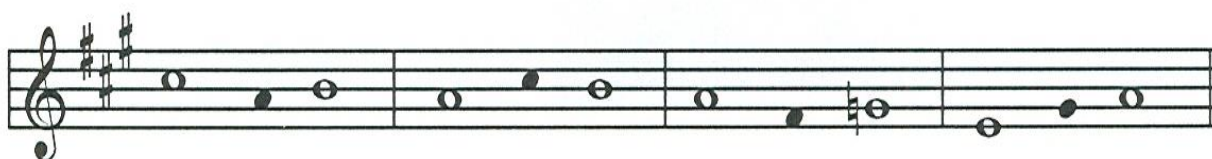
setting by Dolores McCreary



Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.



Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.



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. *antiphon*
5. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * for they are from ever - lasting.
6. Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans - gressions; *
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.
10. For your Name's sake, O Lord, * forgive my sin, for it is great. *antiphon*

Upcoming Events

- 12/2 Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30, classroom
- 12/3 Spiritual Discovery Group, 9:30am, Library
- 12/4 Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
- 12/4 Light Soup Supper and Advent program, 5:30, Metcalf
- 12/4 YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
- 12/5 Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
- 12/5 Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
- 12/5 Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, Green Country Village
- 12/7 Bookstore Open House, 10am-3pm
- 12/7 Christmas in the Woods, 4pm, 1000 Hazel Ct



Tithes and Offerings Online: Offerings may be made via Tithely online, using this QR Code.



*Join us for some
holiday cheer!*

Christmas Open House at St. Luke's Bookstore

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
10AM TO 3PM

.....

- ~See Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1-2PM.
- ~Explore a curated selection of inspirational books, gifts, and seasonal items perfect for Christmas giving.
- ~Enjoy complimentary holiday treats.
- ~Enter our hourly raffle drawings.



Let's make a joyful noise!

Christmas in the Woods

Food & Drinks & Holiday Cocktails	Face Painting & Fun for Kids!
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December 7th • 4-8p.m.
1000 Hazel Ct.

rsvp is welcome - 918-914-3263 - Nancy Woods

The Days are Coming

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’”

—JEREMIAH 33:14-16 (NIV)

Biblical prophets are my favorite because they never shy away from hard truths. They speak plainly about the problems in the world. They weep and mourn for the brokenness, the pain, and the suffering that they witness—especially a guy named Jeremiah (he wasn’t called the weeping prophet for nothing!). Jeremiah noticed the ways that the world was not as it would be, *not as it should be*. He glimpsed the world through tears. Yet he also saw something sacred shining through. Long before the birth of Christ, Jeremiah predicted his coming, and he told everyone: “The days are coming...they are coming,” when someone will come whose very name means truth and justice and love and compassion and peace and safety and righteousness to make all things right (a paraphrase).

Fast forward over 500 years, and enter a baby born to usher in a new creation, a new hope, a new truth—a

truth that the world would one day be restored. This is the very promise of God that began in creation and is now being fulfilled in the person of Jesus. And perhaps this is what the season of Advent invites us to bear witness to.

But that doesn’t mean we can’t tell the whole truth about what we are experiencing in the here and now. It takes courage to wrap our minds around the inconvenient truths, the difficult truths, the complicated and seemingly contradictory truths. God has made us for truth-telling, to have eyes that glimpse through tears at the already-and-not-yet that we live in. And at the same time, these same eyes are trained on Jesus, who embodies the compassion, restoration, and justice we long for. So this Advent, may we have the eyes to look long and see this promise of truth coming toward us once again. Let’s meet it with joy, together.

PRACTICE ADVENT TOGETHER

The Advent wreath began in 1839 in a shelter for orphans and neglected children. Each night of Advent, a German pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern gathered the kids around him to light a candle, tell them a story, and pray. Imagine their excitement as the candle pushed back the darkness more and more, one night at a time. Any child called John or Joan would be first to help light a candle as they heard about John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus. Visitors who came to the orphanage loved the wheel-shaped chandelier, and so the custom spread as churches and families adopted it, though the number of candles were eventually reduced to 4 for each Sunday of Advent, and 1 on Christmas Day.

For the first night of Advent, gather your family or friends over for dinner or FaceTime your parents or grandkids. Grab a match, dim the lights, and sit around your Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle and take a moment to look around at the faces in the candlelight. (You can play an Advent song from our [Advent playlist](#) to begin. Or sing “This Little Light of Mine.”)

DISCUSS

**Note: If you have young children or want to lean into your creative side, give each person paper and colorful crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Ask them to start drawing pictures of Christmas lights as you start the discussion.*

1. Christmas is the season of light and of lights. Many people light-up the long winter nights with lights on their trees or homes, even blow-up characters and dinosaurs. There are lights everywhere you look. Share your favorite memory of going to see Christmas lights, or lighting up your Christmas tree, or dreams you have of decorating your house with lights one day. What are your favorite kinds of Christmas lights?

2. John 1:5 says, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (NIV). How does Jesus, as the light, reveal what is true about the world as it is now?

3. Jeremiah speaks about how the “days are coming” when the world will look different, a promised future we can only glimpse. What are your greatest hopes for the world? For your community? For your family?

RESPOND

The promise of Advent is that there is a light coming who overcomes the darkness. One night this week (perhaps tonight!), take time to notice the lights of Christmas, or look up at the stars and the moon. Get curious about the contrast. How do the lights make you feel as you stand in the night? What does this light reveal to you about Jesus as the light shining in darkness (John 1:5)?

A Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent

God, could this be the year when we see it?
The goodness that is coming,
like starlight from a distant time?

Could this be the Advent when we sense it?
That the springtime of the soul
will one day last forever?

Could this be the Advent when we notice
the inbreaking of your coming promises?
Promises full of blessing:
of truth so clear, so bright
that every shadowy lie must flee away.
Of compassion so deep, so strong
that everyone is encircled in its embrace.

Of restoration so complete, so beautiful
that there is gladness everywhere.
And of justice so satisfying and so right,
that all will be well.

May this Advent be the new beginning,
as we learn to live by the light
of your coming promises.
Glimpsing the world through tears,
while also seeing something
sacred shining through too.
Our Truth. Our Light.
Our Promise incarnate.
Amen.



Celebrant: The Rev Nick Phares
Organist and Choir Director: Keeli Droege
Servers: Sara Clements, Jeff Birk
Usher: Jim Liehr
Guest Organist: Dolores McCreary

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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