



Holy Cross EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

The Service of the Word

Opening Hymn 76: "On Jordan's Bank"

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures forever.**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL *** (Ages 4 – 10 years)

During the following hymn, children process with the leader to the Chapel for a lesson and singing; they return at The Peace.

Song of Praise: "Even So Come"

*Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

The Collect of the Day - prayed by the Celebrant

The First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

(Canticle 16) Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
**that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father
Abraham,

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

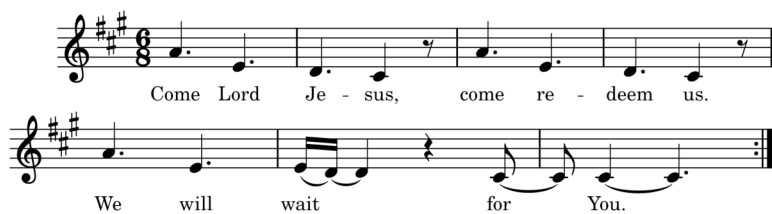
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever Amen. by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Sequence: "Come Lord Jesus"



The Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:1-6*

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Message: "Finding *Faith* in Uncertainty and Waiting"
The Rev. Rob Dixon

The Apostles' Creed (*in unison*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen*

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, during this season of Advent and beyond, help us to prepare ourselves for your Son.
That he may dwell in us and us in him, eternally.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those among our families and friends who experience sadness and grief during the holiday season; *That they may experience your steadfast love and be filled with peace and joy.*

We pray for all who have died; *Silence* - lovingly receive them into your eternal kingdom. *That we may one day be reunited with them, in you.*

We pray for those on our church's prayer list, for all who are sick or lonely, for prisoners, and for the victims of crime everywhere. *That your healing presence may embrace them all.*

Let us now pray for our additional needs and those of others.

The Confession (p. 360 BCP)

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 Peace: Welcome & Announcements





The Holy Communion

This portion of the service begins on p. 370 in the BCP however, you are encouraged to give your attention to the altar.

The Communion. All baptized Christians are invited and welcome to receive Communion. Anyone who does not wish to receive communion is invited come forward, cross their arms over their chest, and receive a blessing. If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pews, please notify the ushers at the door of the church. For bread only, no wine, put one arm across your chest. Gluten Free available.

Offertory: “Creator of the stars of night” (see insert)

The Doxology 380: (v. 3)

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.

For this portion of the service you will need your Book of Common Prayer (The red book in your pew). P. 370

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

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

Sanctus S-129

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.

The Lord’s Prayer (p. 336 BCP)

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.

Fraction Anthem: “O Saving Victim”

O Sav-ing Vic-tim, o-pen wide the gate of heav'n to
us be - low, our foes press on from ev' - ry
side; Your aid sup - ply, Your strength be - stow.

Communion Hymn: “Great is Thy faithfulness”

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
Summer and winter, springtime, and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above.
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love (Refrain)*

Communion Hymn : “The King Shall Come” (see insert)

Post Communion Prayer (p. 365 BCP)

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

Closing Hymn: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
(see insert)

Serving Today

8:00am

DOD: Pam Walker

Ambassadors:

Chalice Bearers: Hunter Walker

Readers: Nancy Gibbons, Ed Austin

10:30am

DOD: Susan Karl

Acolytes: Grace Andrew, Landree Williams

Ambassadors: Clay Coleman

Chalice Bearers: Laurie White, Camille Lukow

Readers: John Holder, Lucy Brabham

Flower Dedications

Given to the glory of God by Katie Brand in memory of her brother, Sean Krasnosky.

SERMON NOTES

LAMENTATION:

Yet another helpful Old Testament Scripture is from _____ . Lamentations was written by _____ immediately after the fall of Jerusalem—after they were conquered by the Babylonians and many were carried off into exile and slavery. It is a book of _____ , and in the middle of its weeping, you hear “the battling of two _____ .” “Remembering” _____ both ways: we remember not only God’s faithfulness but also the times we have _____ .

These two _____ battle, and it isn’t pretty, but it is normal.

LESSON #1: THE STRUGGLE IS NORMAL

What we often experience as losing _____ might just be what it feels like to rely on our _____ for our lives—when we can no longer trust in our own agency but must trust in that which cannot yet be seen. Struggling to live by _____ in difficult times is simply what it means to live by _____ in difficult times.

WHY WE STRUGGLE:

Waiting is like flying _____. There is a _____ inherent to waiting. When flying through dense fog, all the pilots could do is trust their _____ and training to use those instruments.

FOUR OF OUR INSTRUMENTS:

1. INSTRUMENT #1: _____ Keeping these in my phone and regularly bringing them to mind, they help me live by faith, not sight, which is essential

when you’re flying blind—waiting.

o WORRY, ANXIETY, INNER BUSYNESS: Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

o FEAR, CONFIDENCE, FAITH: Isaiah 43:10: “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

o DEALING WITH SLANDER: Psalm 27

2. INSTRUMENT #2: SACRAMENT OF

_____ A sacrament is an outward and visible _____ of an inward and spiritual _____. The most important sacrament Jesus gave us is _____. The Sacrament of a _____ of Love and Faith.

3. INSTRUMENT #3: Broaden My _____ When life is uncertain and you’re stuck in waiting, community helps us realize life isn’t about _____ .

4. INSTRUMENT #4: Shorten My _____ Let go of the big picture and, in the words of Princess Anna, “do the next right thing.” Put your head down, do what you’re given to do, and surrender it all to God.

SUMMARY OF INSIGHTS:

1. Remembering works both ways.
2. Struggling with Faith is a Normal Part of living by faith. Have confidence.
3. In Blindness and Waiting, trust your instruments.
4. Instrument 1: Bible Verses of Encouragement and Strength
5. Instrument 2: Sacrament of Community
6. Instrument 3: Broaden your Gaze – life is not about me.
7. Instrument 4: Shorten your Gaze – surrender the big picture and do the next right thing.

Prayer List

Requested Prayer

Alec, Angel, Ann D., Anne M., Arlie, Art H., Barbara C., Barbara S., Becky H., Bob G., Brandon, Brenna, Brooks, Carlos, Carole, CC, Chloe, Clare, Connie, Corey, Crystal, Curt, Dale, Daniel, Darlene, David P., Diane P., Doug M., Elaine G., Emily C., Erica R., Evelyn, Fay, Fr. Chris Coats, Francis, Gary, Gretchen, Harriett K. Herman, Ian, Ivy, Jack, Jennifer, Jessie, Jim W., Joe, John C., John T., Jonathan U., Joshua, Judy, Kaleb, Karen, Kari, Kathy B., Kathy M., Keith, Kelli, Kenneth, Kenny, Kim, Laura C. Leslie, Linda, Lisa, Lorraine, Mabel, Manuel L., Manuel S., Marguerite, Marilyn, Mark, Martha, Mary C., Mary La., Melissa, Michelle, Nancy S., Pamela, Phyllis, Rachel, Ralph, Richard, Robert G., Ron B., Sally, Serge, Seth, Sherry Jo, Stanley, Stephanie, Susan, Tony K., Tonya, The Deuber Family, The Rev. Trisha Spencer, Terri, Valenzuela and Monreal Family Victor, Virginia, Wade, Wanda, William B., William Z., Williamae Stanley,

Military

Adam Thomas, Adam Zigler, Alexander Logan, Anthony Robbins, Asa Ramsey, Ben Boyer, Benjamin Merriweather, Cale Eggart, Chase Coleman, Christian Clark, Corbin Czeck, Daniel Payden, Donovan Chau, Doug Wiessman, Dylan Hoewt, Grant Hungerford, Hunter Bailey, Jackie Neville, James Madden, Jeremy Rice, Jose Hernandez, Kathryn Rubio, Kevin Kahl, Kyle McChesney, Landen Haskins, Laz Bailiff, Marc Ruiz, Mike Darrah, Nicholas Pinkston, Shaun Southall, Stephen del Risco, Taylor Knueven, Tyler Post

Repose of the Soul

Don Fulford | Cindy Bratkovic (friend of Sherry Jo Tilman) | Svetlana Karochkina (Mother of Alla Bressler) | Martha Tissington (Fr. Rob’s Great Aunt) Adele & Jorge Valenzuela