

# THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

## 8am Holy Eucharist

### About this Season

*In the Episcopal Church, the season of Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. The name of the four-Sunday season originates from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “to approach.” During Advent, Christians joyfully await the coming of Jesus, a celebration commemorated on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, also known as Christmas Day. The season is full of expectation and preparation, not only for Christ’s incarnation, but also for his promised “second coming” in majesty.*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Celebrant** Give light to our eyes, and peace to our hearts.

**People** *May Christ find us watching and waiting in joy.*

*A member of the congregation lights the candle on the Advent Wreath.*

**All** *O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Savior bring life and light into the darkness of this world. Amen.*

### The Word of God

#### Opening Acclamation

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

**People** *And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

#### Summary of the Law *Matthew 22:37–40*

**Celebrant** Our Lord Jesus Christ said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

#### Confession of Sin & Absolution

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.*

**Celebrant** 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.

**All** *Amen.*

Kyrie

BCP p. 356

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

**People** *Amen.*

**The Lessons** *Please be seated for the readings.*

### From the Hebrew Bible

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10).

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People** *Thanks be to God.*

### The Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help; \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

## From the Epistles

Reader A reading from the letter of St. James (5:7-10).  
Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People** *Thanks be to God.*

*People stand, as ability allows.*

## Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Savior.

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

## The Homily

## The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

Celebrant Let us stand and profess our faith in the words of 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

Intercessor As the Church universal celebrates the beginning of its New Year, let us lift up our prayers to God for the needs of all people everywhere.

*Silence*

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war anymore. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Intercessor We pray for the Church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Intercessor We pray for the strength to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Intercessor We pray for all who are in need, that they may know the healing power of Christ's love. We pray for all those who have been commended to our prayers, and especially those we now name before you..

*The people may add their own petitions.*

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Intercessor We pray for this congregation, that we may put on the armor of light and share Christ's love in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Intercessor We pray for the souls of all the departed, that they may rest in God's eternal peace.

*The people may add their own petitions.*

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,

**People** ***Hear our prayer.***

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

**People** ***Amen.***

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** ***And also with you.***

## The Offertory

- ◇ Please place your offering in one of the plates as it is passed. Ushers can assist you.
- ◇ You may also donate by scanning the QR code to the right with your mobile device or visit [www.ChristChurchDearborn.org](http://www.ChristChurchDearborn.org)



## Prayer over the Estimate of Giving Cards

**Celebrant** Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our sweat, they represent our lives, they represent our dreams. The offerings which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are offered in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place.

May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you.

**People** *Amen.*

## THE HOLY Communion Eucharistic Prayer B

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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.*

**Celebrant** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

## Sanctus

*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.*

**Celebrant** 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."

**All** Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

**Celebrant** 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary 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.

**People** **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Celebrant** As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

***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

**Celebrant** We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**People** ***We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

### The Invitation to Communion

**Celebrant** The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### The Communion

#### Post Communion Prayer

**Celebrant** 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.***

### Announcements

#### The Blessing

**Celebrant** May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**People** **Amen.**

#### The Dismissal

**Celebrant** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** ***Thanks be to God.***