

# St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Ocean City, Maryland



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

# Holy Eucharist—Rite II

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

## Processional Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #76

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

## Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

# The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* You come to your people and set them free.

*The Celebrant may say*

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.

*The following hymn sung, all standing*

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 of the Day

Celebrant    The Lord be with you.

People        And also with you.

Celebrant    Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Diocesan Collect,** *said in unison*

Gracious God, through the movement of your Holy Spirit, strengthen us here at St. Paul's by-the-Sea and in the Diocese of Easton as an inviting and welcoming people; receive our worship, nurture our life in Christ that we may evermore faithfully serve all your people, both near and far; this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The First Lesson:** Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm:** 85:1-2, 8-13

- <sup>1</sup> You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup> You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- <sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- <sup>9</sup> Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- <sup>12</sup> The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

### **The Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of

the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say  
The Word of the Lord.  
People Thanks be to God.*

## **Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal 1982, #75

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away;

## Gospel

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Gradual Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #75

3 but the word of our God endureth,  
the arm of the Lord is strong;  
he stands in the midst of nations,  
and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs he'll gently hold;  
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,  
and bring them safe to his fold.

## **The Sermon**     *Pastor Jill Williams*

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

### **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

Friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Let us come before God praying, "Blessed are you, God; *May the earth be filled with your glory.*"

Grant your Church, O God of encouragement, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that we may glorify you with one voice. Make us a people of repentance and bless us with your Holy Spirit and fire.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

Grant this nation, O God of justice, the will to defend the needy and the poor. May we sincerely hope for that day when hurt and destruction are no more.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

Grant your creation, O God of faithfulness, the hope of renewal. May we who are stewards of this earth, also live at peace with all you have created.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

Grant this city, O God of understanding, prosperity. May all the people know and do justice. We ask that you teach us and our leaders the best ways to meet the needs of all our neighbors.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

Grant all the needy, O God of steadfast love, your mercy. Prove yourself to be a God of righteousness and faithfulness. To all their pain and suffering bring your healing and peace. And with your winnowing fork clear from their lives all the forces of oppression.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

Grant to those who have died, O God of hope, eternal life in you. Bring the departed into your glorious dwelling where all their hope will be fulfilled in Christ.

*Silence*

Blessed are you, God:

*May the earth be filled with your glory.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*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 Bishop, when present, or 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.

## The Peace

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

## Holy Communion

### Offertory

*The Celebrant says to the people*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and  
sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread  
and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant.*

Everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord and is invited to communion! At the altar rail, you will be offered the host first, which will be placed in your hand. Please respond "Amen." Then the wine will be offered to you to drink from the common cup. [We no longer intinct.](#) If you are not yet comfortable returning to drinking from the common cup, you may either return to your seat after receiving the host, or you may choose to cross your arms over your chest when the chalice is offered and simply respond "Amen," therefore reverencing the sacrament. We believe that we are fully communed after receiving the sacrament in one form, so any of these choices would be fully acceptable. If you do not wish to receive communion, or you have not yet been baptized, you are still invited to come up to the altar rail for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when offered the host and Pastor Jill will say a blessing over you. You may then return to your seat. If you interested in

learning more about baptism and full entrance into our worshipping community, please contact Pastor Jill at [Pastorjill@stpaulsbythesea.org](mailto:Pastorjill@stpaulsbythesea.org).

*The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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:

*Celebrant 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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant 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:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant 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.

*The people say:*

AMEN.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us say together the Lord's Prayer, in whatever language you are most comfortable.

*People and Celebrant*

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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*  
[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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 ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately  
deliver it to the people.*

*Using the center aisle, proceed to the Altar rail. Once you have received communion,  
return to your seat using the side aisles.*

*The Bread and the Cup are 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.]

## **Communion Hymn 1**

Hymnal 1982, #508

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,

until with thee I will one will,  
to do or to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

## **Communion Hymn 2**

Hymnal 1982, #343

1 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless  
thy chosen pilgrim flock  
with manna in the wilderness,  
with water from the rock.

2 We would not live by bread alone,  
but by thy word of grace,  
in strength of which we travel on  
to our abiding-place.

3 Be known to us in breaking bread,  
and do not then depart;  
Saviour, abide with us, and spread  
thy table in our heart.

4 Lord, sup with us in love divine,  
thy Body and thy Blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine,  
be our immortal food.



*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*  
Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

### **Recessional Hymn:**

Hymnal 1982, #462

1 The Lord will come and not be slow,  
his footsteps cannot err;  
before him righteousness shall go,  
his royal harbinger.

2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
shall bud and blossom show;  
and justice, from her heavenly bower,  
look down on us below.

3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,  
this wicked earth redress;  
for thou art he who shalt by right  
the nations all possess.

4 The nations all whom thou hast made  
shall come, and all shall frame  
to bow them low before thee, Lord,  
and glorify thy Name.

5 For great thou art, and wonders great  
by thy strong hand are done:  
thou in thy everlasting seat  
remainest God alone.

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

# Welcome to St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

All baptized Christians, of any age & denomination, are welcome to receive communion. **\*\*Gluten Free Wafer** are available.

## Prayer List

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, Letty Trimper Hurst, Fr. Joe Rushton, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Randy Hastings, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Jean Charles, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Larry Lorton, The Lecates Family, The People of Ukraine, Michael Hallett, Hannah Johnson, Hugh Smith, Ralph Hastings, Frank Avallone, Mary Wright, Andy Diaz, Alan Farley, Liana Wallman, Susan Lewis, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Christine Zellner, Brian, Nicoyia, Tom Belle, Aaron Call, Christine Bauerdorf, Victims of the Hawaiian Wildfires, Lynn Anstatt, Jim Burton, Peggy Hartman, Kathy Jersin, Mary Mitchell, Wendy O'Donoghue, Christina Hartman, Patrick O'Malley, Chris Ellis, David Twining, Corey Bowman, Roger Ballard, Beverly Cooper, Aniyah Adams, Levon Davis, Cindi Strawley

## This Week We Pray For ...

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We give thanks for the witness of God's people at Old Wye, Wye Mills, and for their Lay Leadership during their period of transition.

Anniversaries: JB & Melissa Bunting