

# The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• The Third Sunday in Advent, Year B • December 17, 2023 •

## Opening Hymn 458 v 1,2,3 &7

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.  
Amen.**

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.**

## Penitential Rite

The Lord desires to lift up the lowly and restore all that has been ruined. He called out for us who have lost our way, to rejoice. May we seek this renewal as we pray:

**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.**

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.

Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**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.**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

## **Venite: Psalm 95:1-7**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout  
for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above  
all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the  
heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have  
molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and  
kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his  
pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## **Psalm 126**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \* and  
our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \* “The Lord  
has done great things for them.”

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \* like the  
watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \* will read with  
songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

## First Lesson Isaiah (61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because  
the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring  
good news to the oppressed, to bind up the  
brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of  
the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our  
God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those  
who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland  
instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of  
mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint  
spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the  
planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall  
build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the  
former devastations; they shall repair the ruined  
cities, the devastations of many generations. For I  
the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and  
wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their  
recompense, and I will make an everlasting  
covenant with them. Their descendants shall be

known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 12: The Song of Creation**

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \* O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \* and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

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**

The **second lesson** is from the First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle C: **The Song of Hannah** 1 Samuel 2:1-8

My heart exults in you, O God; \* my triumph song is lifted in you.

My mouth derides my enemies, \* for I rejoice in your salvation.

There is none holy like you, \* nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.

Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; \* Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.

The bows of the mighty are broken, \* but the weak are clothed in strength.

Those once full now labor for bread, \* those who hungered now are well fed.

The childless woman has borne sevenfold, \* while the mother of many is forlorn.

God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; \* gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.

God raises the poor from the dust; \* and lifts the needy from the ash heap

To make them sit with the rulers \* and inherit a place of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are God's \* on which the whole earth is founded.

The Holy **Gospel** of our Lord according to Saint John (1:6-8, 19-28)

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

*Here follows **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

Pleading for God's gift of a renewing Spirit, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

*(As you are moved by the Spirit, read one or more of the following petitions.)*

That our lives may be songs of praise and thanksgiving rising from joyful hearts and proclaiming in every word we speak and gesture we make that God fills us with holy presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all those in our world held in captivity or any form of slavery may find liberation from the chains that bind them and new freedom for their hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may accept with courage God's anointing of our lives to share in the divine mission of rescue for the world, bringing justice and joy to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may reverently offer in service to the world the ministry of light which we hold in fragile human hands, this sharing in the saving work of Christ the Light, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the mercy of God which lasts from age to age may wash over us and bless us and stir up in us the bold courage to be its faithful prophets in our

world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That in a world that still holds war and violence to be a solution, all may hear and heed the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness, that peace is the hope and heart of God's plan, and that we, holding this message have the courage to live it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Jennifer and for all who have requested our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Send the Spirit of Jesus upon us, O God, that we may be your songs of peace and joy in this world. We pray in the name of the one who is our peace and joy, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

### **Offertory Hymn 56 v 5 & 6**

*Prayer over the gifts:* God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving A

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him 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 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:

**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 as they are able!*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love . . . Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, . . .

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.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

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

Behold the Lord whose advent we await, who will come with glory on the day of judgment. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

### **Communion of the People**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Faithful God, help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you. Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever-living 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.**

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Blessings**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

### **Announcements**

### **Anniversary/Thanksgiving Prayer**

We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

### **Closing hymn 379**

Go forth in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to Go**