



The Third Sunday of Advent

11 December A.D. 2016

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*
The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*
Jason Cutshall, *Seminarian*
Jerrold Tidwell, *Minister of Music*

Welcome to Ascension!

For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from the table next to the church office door.

We meet for coffee, tea, and snacks in the Narthex after each service.

The Nursery in Room 2 is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Within the bulletin, the people read the parts in bold print.

♦ Please silence your audible devices ♦

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. 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.

Holy God.

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

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.

James 5:7-10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

- 1 Their breath leaves them,
then they go back to the ground.
On that very same day, their plans die too.
- 2 The person whose help is the God of Jacob—
the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God—
is truly happy!
- 3 God: the maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
God: who is faithful forever,
- 4 who gives justice to people who are oppressed,
who gives bread to people who are starving!
The Lord: who frees prisoners.
- 5 The Lord: who makes the blind see.
The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low.
The Lord: who loves the righteous.
- 6 The Lord: who protects immigrants,
who helps orphans and widows,
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [11:2-11]

Glory To You, Lord Christ.

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me." When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. "I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Jason Cutshall

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.
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: Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mariann our Bishop, Randy and Javier, our clergy, Jason, our seminarian, and all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. You may add your own prayers at this time silently or aloud.

Martha Labet, Fran Spina, Monica Koenig Caphart, Diane Goldman, Sarah Rubin, Joann Gertig, Lou and Janet Spenser, Sandy Boynton, Roz Silver-Marcotte and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for refugees and all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. You may offer your own prayers of thanksgiving at this time.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

We give thanks for the life of Marilyn Whitmore, in whose memory the altar flower was given by Paul Whitmore.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All kneel. Silence may be kept.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;**

**and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader and People

The Celebrant alone 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

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

Announcements

Please stand at the presentation of the money and food offerings.

HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer 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 our 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.

You may stand or kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer.

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

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

***Administration of the Sacrament:** All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to the communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion station and cross your arms over the front of your chest - this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed. If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.*

***Healing Prayers:** If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.*

When there is a Eucharistic Visitor present

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

Let us pray.

Prayer after Communion

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.

The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.
And may the blessing of the one who made us,
who journeys with us,
who breathes us into life moment by moment,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you
this day and always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP LEADERS

		This Week	Next Week
Reader:	7:45 am	Enid Cole	Leslie Sanya
	9:00 am	Alvaro Gonzalez Marsha Sutherland	Andrew Greene Suzyn Gonzalez
	11:15 am	Alex Langley	Anne Brink
Prayers:	7:45 am	Enid Cole	Leslie Sanya
	9:00 am	Barbara Mansfield	Betsy Hasegawa
Chalicians:	7:45 am	Leslie Sanya Wadai Dennis	Jason Cutshall Sharon Hayden
	9:00 am	Margaret Tellu Dotty Pfadenhauer	Nancy Carman Cynthia Perley
	11:15 am	Rimie Siard Anika Lalmansingh	Peg Ruppel Kirk Flitch
Healing Prayer Ministers:			
	7:45 am	Lisa Murdock	Meredith Horan
	9:00 am	Susan McLaughlin	Major Clemens
	11:15 am	Ped Ruppel	Jason Cutshall
Acolytes:	7:45 am	Ron Hayden Aidan Douglas	Raymond Chin Aidan Douglas
	9:00 am	Richard McFarland Sari Stoddard Gary McLaughlin	Alfred Waskiye Manny Johnson Nuelle Johnson
Welcome Team:			
	7:45 am	Meredith Horan Florence Sirleaf	Herald Douglas Lisa Murdock
	9:00 am	Esther Allotey-Taylor Bev Stennett Christine Kroma Josephine Clarke	Dorett Sutherland James Black Jonathan Black
	11:15 am	Sciou Broderick Peedy Terry Emmanuel Nwankwo	Avin Lalmansingh Karl Didavi Clark Didavi
Flower Delivery:		Alice Padmore Esther Sawyer	Adome Baffoe Hawa Clemens
Altar Guild:	7:45 am	Enid Cole Mardia Dennis	Leslie Sanga Wadai Dennis
	9:00 am	Dorett Sutherland Adoma Baffoe Dotty Pfadenhauer	Nancy Carman Cynthia Perley Liz Lennon
	11:15 am	Anika Lalmansingh	Laura Shay
Weekly Altar Guild Team:		9:00am Team	11:15 Team
Eucharistic Visitors:		Pamela Irons-Forth	Randy Lord-Wilkinson
Song Leader	11:15 am	Betsy Hasegawa	Sue Snay
Hospitality Angels	7:45 am	David Burton	Yvonne Lartey
	9:00 am	Michelle Wood	Nathalie Scott
	11:15 am	Mary Layen-Brizan	Rose Buck

