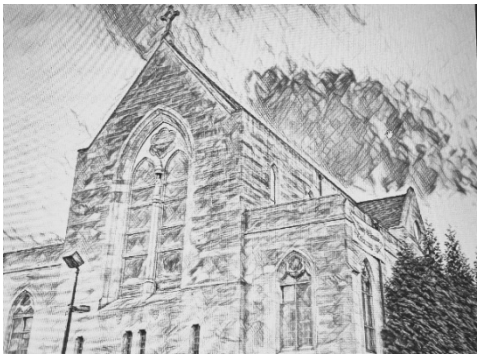
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite 2
Dec. 7, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton

Our mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- Romans 15:4-13
- Matthew 3:1-12

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Prelude: *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,* Mary Beth Bennett

Lighting the Advent Candles

Advent means "the coming." It's a season of preparation and anticipation, a time of repentance and reflection, and the first season of our church year.

The four candles we light over these four Sundays of Advent are set in a wreath, a circle with no beginning or end that represents the eternity of God's love. For these four weeks, it sits prominently at the front of St. Paul's.

Three of the candles – the ones lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays – are blue or purple, the liturgical color of the season. The candle lit on the third Sunday is rose, the color of joy.

At the center of the wreath is the large white candle we light on Christmas Eve.

Prayer for lighting the second Advent candle: the Bethlehem Candle representing Love (Dec. 7, 2025)

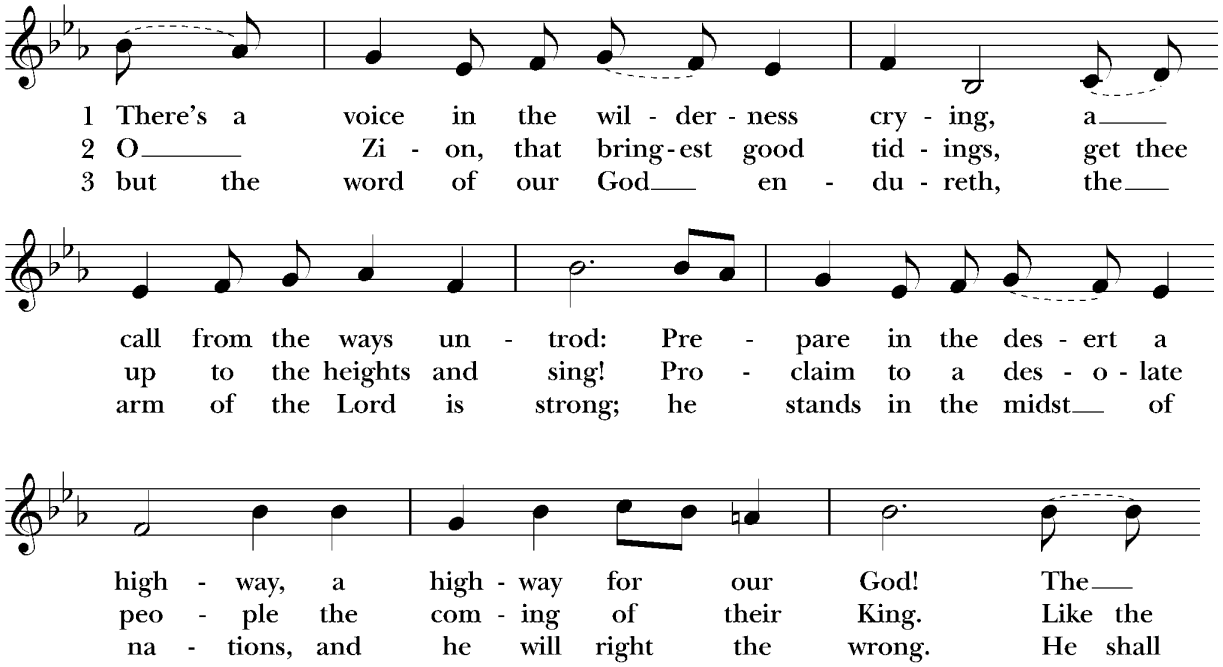
Reader: Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the way. We who like sheep have gone astray have found the way to you through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, *Amen.*

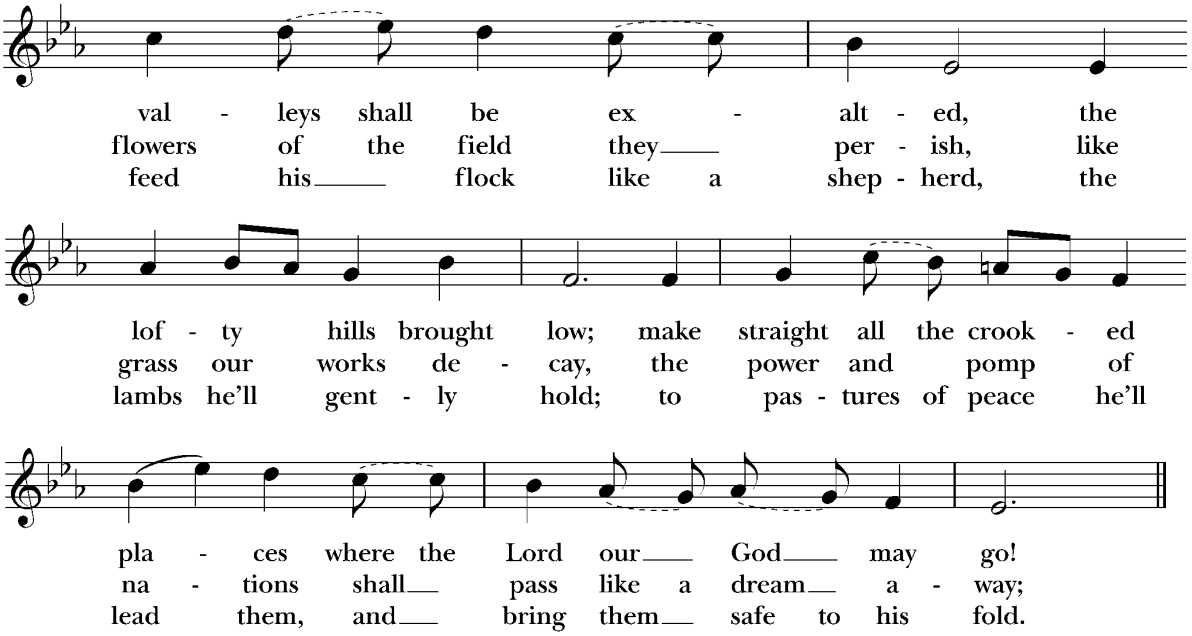
(Two candles are lit.)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: There's a voice in the wilderness (Ascension) (H 75)





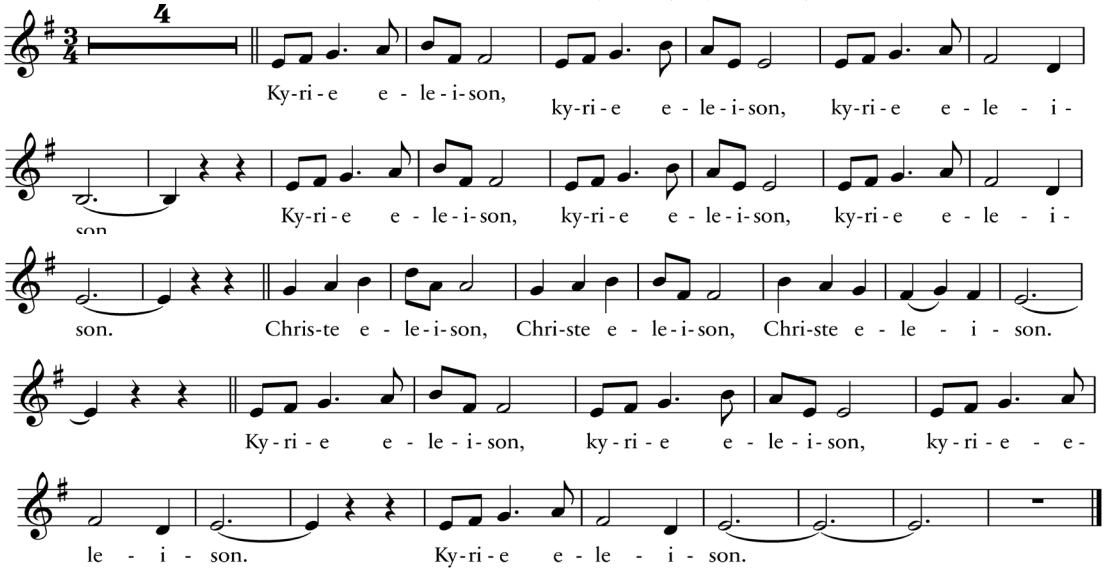
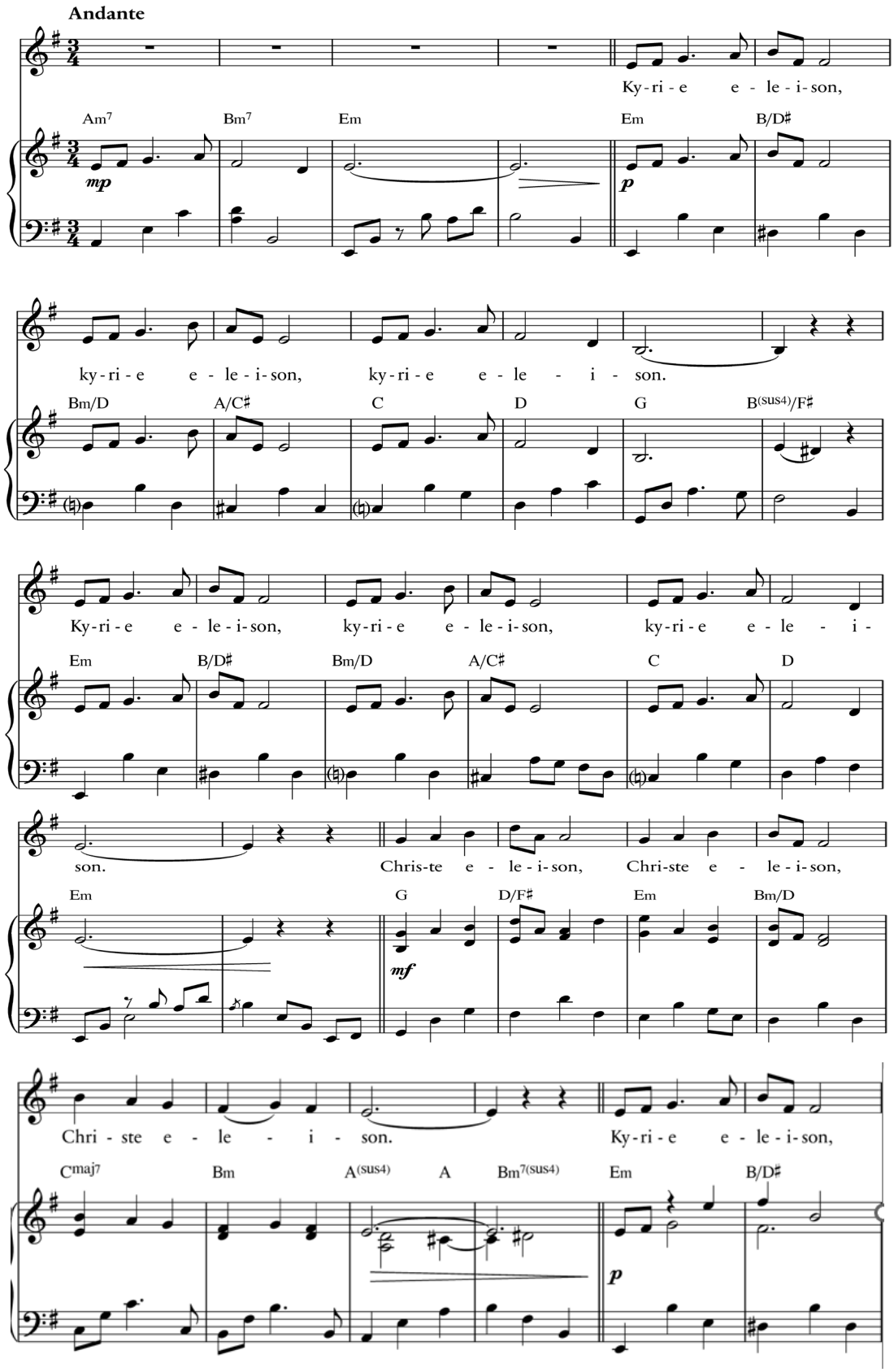
Opening Acclamation

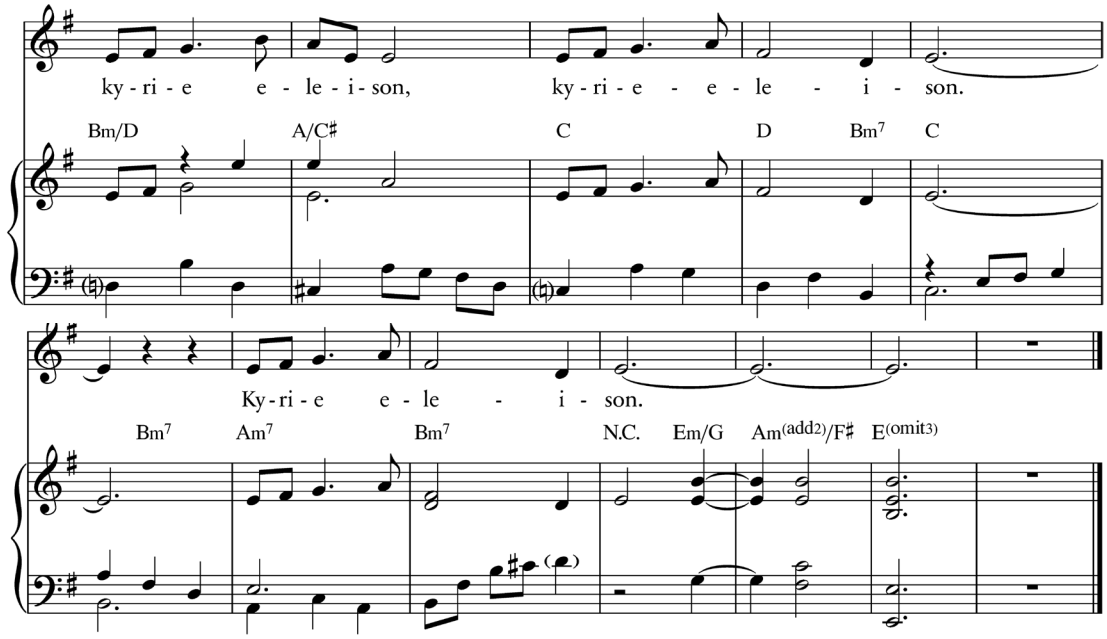
Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

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.*

KYRIE ELEISON: *Celtic Waltz (Tan) (AS20)*



Andante
Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
Am7 Bm7 Em Em B/D♯
mp
p
ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.
Bm/D A/C♯ C D G B(sus4)/F♯
Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-
Em B/D♯ Bm/D A/C♯ C D
son. Chris-te e-le-i-son, Chri-ste e-le-i-son,
Em G D/F♯ Em Bm/D
mf
Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
Cmaj7 Bm A(sus4) A Bm7(sus4) Em B/D♯
p

Music: Keith Tan. Music © 2022 Keith Tan.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

The Lessons

Please sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[1]A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
[2]The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
[3]His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM 72:1-7,1 18-19

1Give the king your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
2That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
3That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
4He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

like showers that water the earth.
[7]In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
[18]Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
[19]And blessed be his glorious Name forever, *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

READING: Romans 15:4-13

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

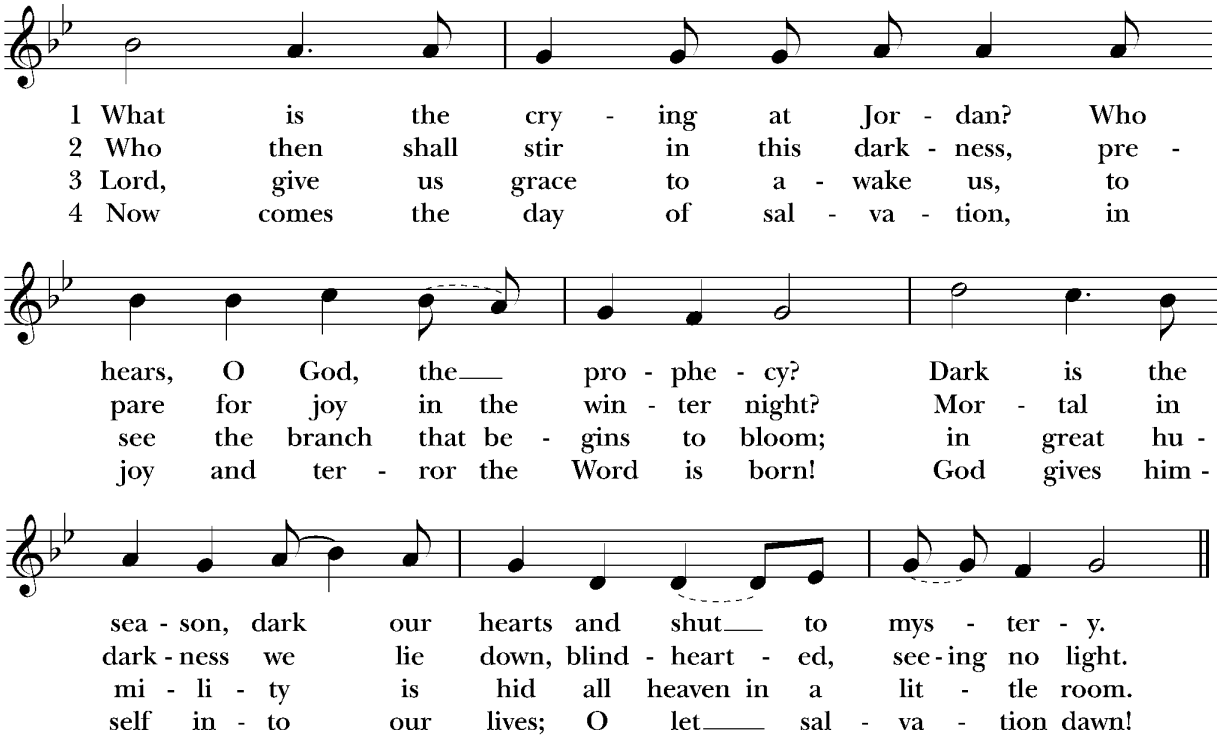
[4]Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. [5]May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, [6]so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[7]Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. [8]For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, [9]and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";
[10]and again he says,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
[11]and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
[12]and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."
[13]May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *What is the crying at Jordan* (St. Mark's Berkeley) (H69)



Please remain standing if able

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[1]In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming, [2]"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [3]This is the one of
whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.' "
[4]Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his
food was locusts and wild honey. [5]Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going
out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, [6]and they were baptized by him in the
river Jordan, confessing their sins.
[7]But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8]Bear fruit
worthy of repentance. [9]Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our
ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to
Abraham. [10]Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does

not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11]"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12]His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

The Sermon: The Rev. Kay Ashby

The Creed

Please stand if able

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

Please remain standing

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

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

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
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.

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Peggy Neidig, Alice Bolam, Cara Warren, Valerie Frear, Molly Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Joanne, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, Steve Hamilton, Deborah Starkey, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins and Ashley Stroud.
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Please pray the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer together:
O Lord our God,
May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.
We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.

We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.
And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin
Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 Priest
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.
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Advent Carol,* Alfred Fedak

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

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.

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." ♪

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

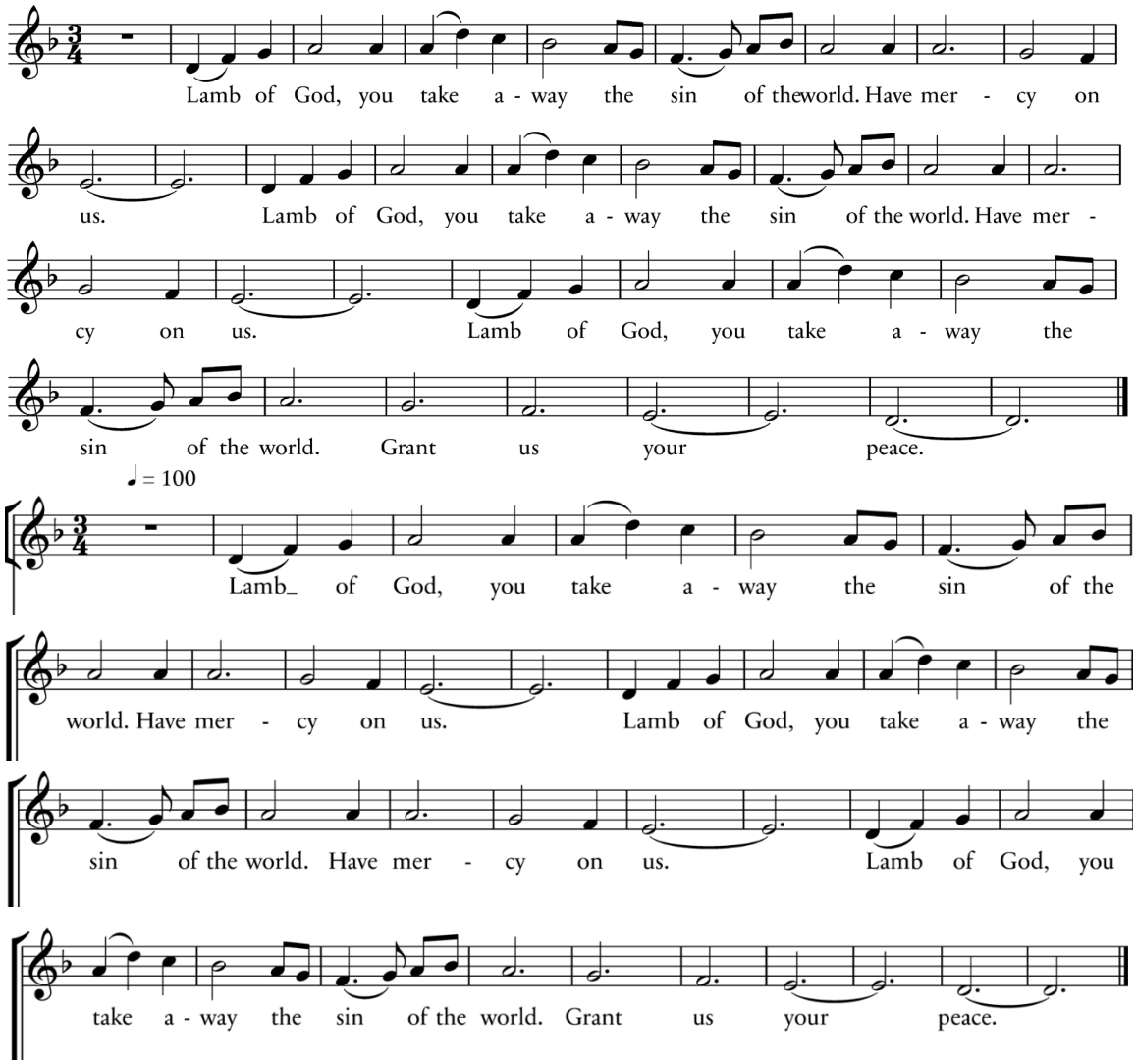
Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

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 Paul 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. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

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,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

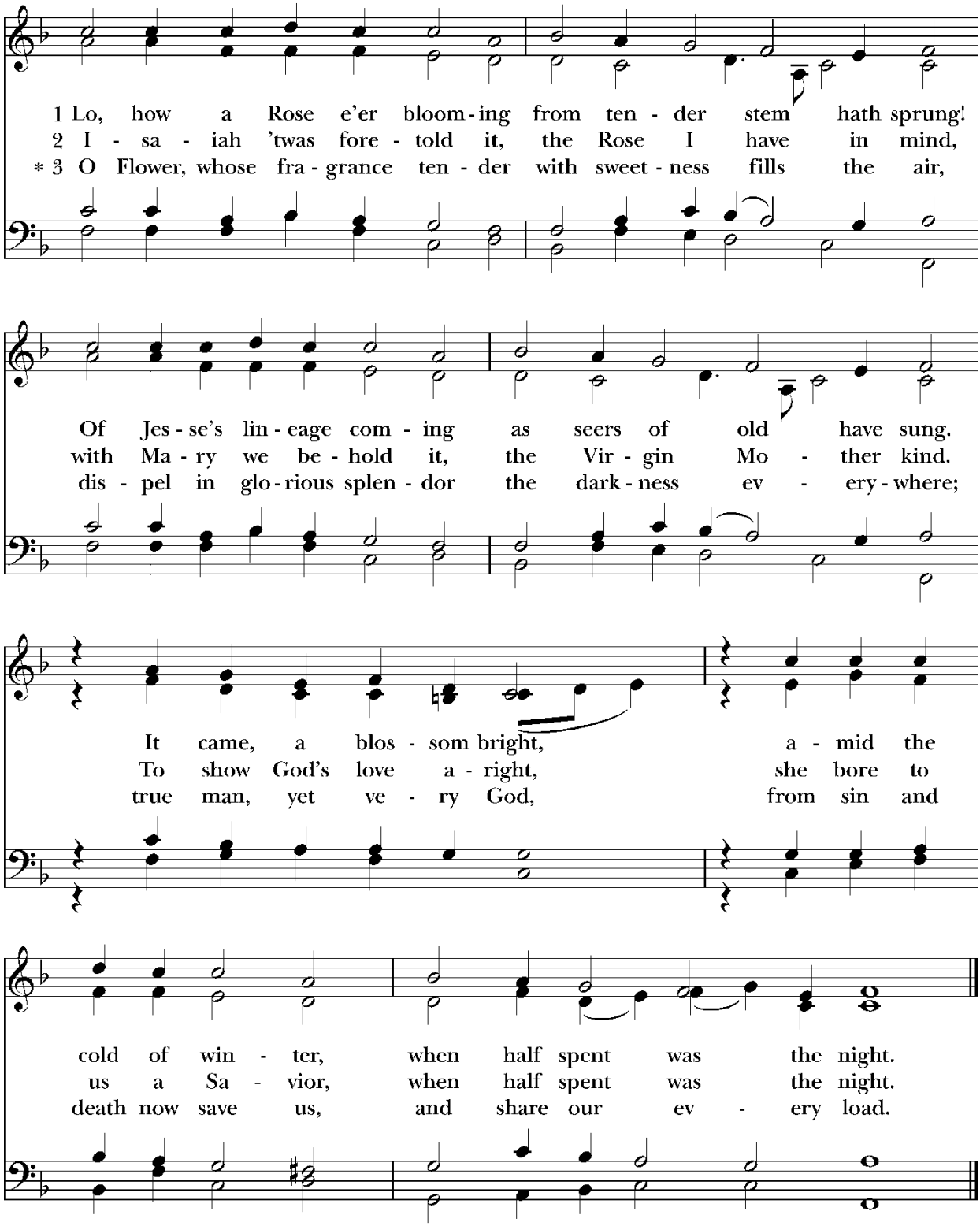
FRACTION ANTHEM: *Lamb of God Agnus Dei* (Dunphy) (AS11)

Spiritual Communion

Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

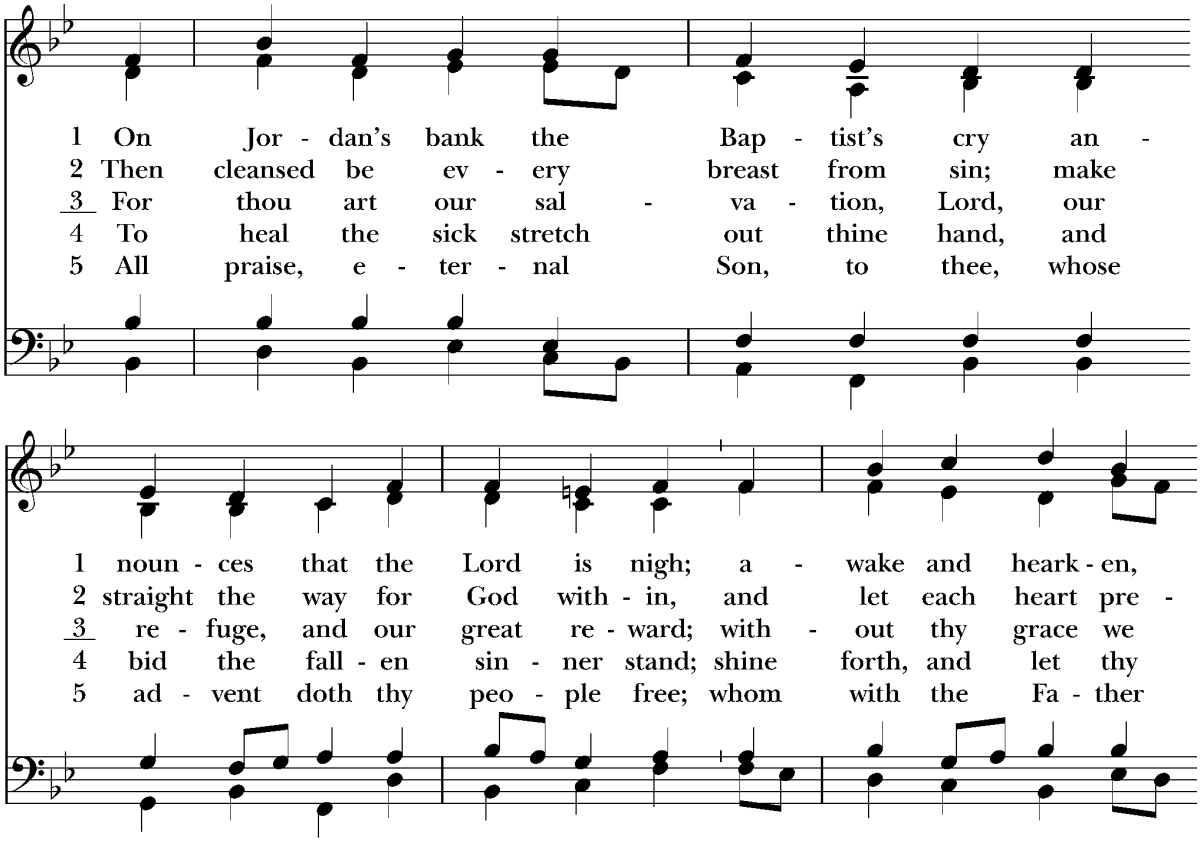
All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of St. Paul's.

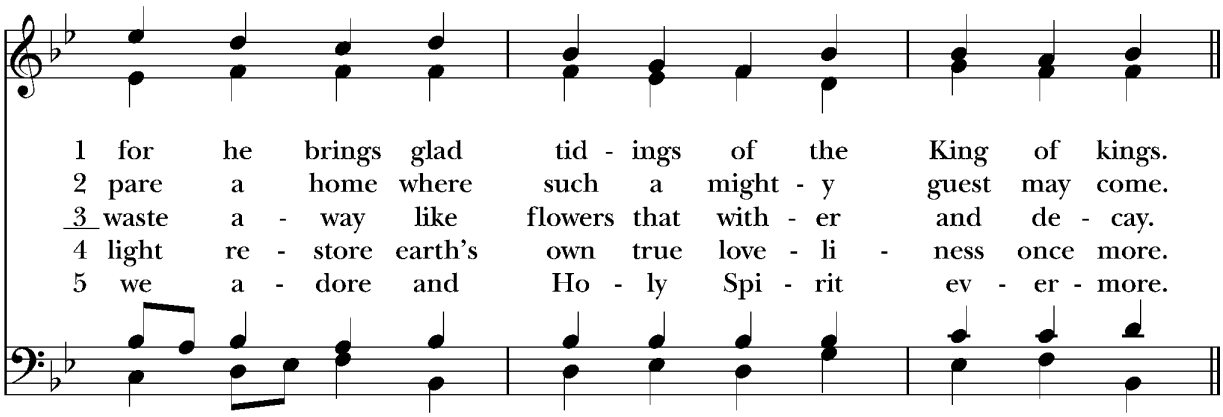
POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Lo How a Rose (Es ist ein Ro)* (H81)

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.
Celebrant and 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.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *On Jordan's Bank* (Winchester New) (H 76)





Blessing

Celebrant: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Hymn Improvisation on Winchester New,* Rosalie Bonighton

TODAY'S SERVERS:
Celebrant: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Cara Warren and Karen Swope
Lector: Demetrius Carrothers
Counters: David Rotthoff and M.L. Schultze

Announcements

December Birthdays
Richard Oloya, Dec. 4
William Kendrick, Dec. 5
Deborah Husted, Dec. 6
Margaret Moore-Neidig, Dec. 18
Dan Lewton, Dec. 23
John Titmas, Dec. 24

A special visit from the Diocese

Next Sunday, the Rev. Audra Abt, Canon for Innovation and Congregational Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, will be our celebrant, preacher and – after the service – our guest at a special parish-wide meeting as we discern the future of St. Paul's.

Her visit follows a meeting of our new consultant, the Rev. Alan Cowart, with the St. Paul's Discernment Committee yesterday (Saturday).

Canon Audra will be exploring with us including:

- How we think about the family of St. Paul's -- Sunday worship and beyond.
- A model for faith development in community as we build more bridges.
- Ways God is working in all our lives no matter what the model.
- The role of the Fr. Joe and Mother Kay into 2026.
- Update on the discernment process.
- The importance of Lay leadership.
- Whatever else is on your mind and in your heart.

A bit more about Canon Audra:

The Rev. Abt, was vicar of Holy Spirit, Greensboro, and mission developer and pastor of Abundant Life Health and Healing in Greensboro before coming to the Diocese of Ohio in early 2024.

As a multi-lingual priest in North Carolina, she served congregations with members from Latin America, West Africa, the Caribbean, and Black and White members hailing from around the U.S.

Since she came to the Diocese, Canon Audra has begun hosting monthly "innovation community calls" to get a sense of new ways churches throughout our diocese are approaching their vocations.

Greening of St. Paul's

Please remember that St. Paul's always gives Advent her due, but will be fully preparing for Christmas after service on Sunday, Dec. 21. And this year, we'll have a party to celebrate the greening of the church for everyone who helps transform our sanctuary into its Christmas finery. There's friendship, joyful preparation and plenty more to share, so please plan to stay.

To place your order for Christmas poinsettias, please complete this form and return it to Peggy in the Parish Office. Make checks for the entire order payable to St. Paul's. Thank you for making our Sanctuary special this Christmastide!

Name: _____ **Total Enclosed:** $_____

In loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

To the Glory of God for: _____

Type	Quantity	(# Needed)	Price	Donate *	Purchase **
6.5" Poinsettia	____R	(18) ____ W	(14) $10.00 ea.	_____	_____
8.5" Red Poinsettia	_____	(4)	$18.00 ea.	_____	_____
14" White Poinsettia	_____	(2)	$40.00 ea.	_____	_____
28" Pine wreaths	_____	(2)	$24.00 ea.	_____	xxxxxxxx
Pine Roping (25' rolls)	_____	(4)	$25.00 ea.	_____	xxxxxxxx

____ I wish to make a general donation to be used where needed in the amount of _____.

*Poinsettias **donated** will be distributed to shut-ins following Epiphany, and are tax-deductible.
Poinsettias **purchased will be labeled with the buyer's name for pick-up in the Narthex when notified (non- deductible).

DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 15