

GRACE episcopal church



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
Advent Event Announcement
Grace at Christmas
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace

pp. 3-18
p. 19
p. 20
p. 21
p. 22

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WE are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

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The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*  
The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*  
Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry  
Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden*  
Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*  
Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Adrianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa,  
Sheryl Rifkin, Sr. Gregory Simmons

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WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT*. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.

GRACE EPISCOPAL church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year A

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Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

*This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.*

Voluntary: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1750)  
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ENTRANCE RITE AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD


Introit (choir) *Populus Sion*


Mode VII

(Antiphon) **P**EOPLE OF ZION, behold, the Lord shall come to redeem the nations: and the Lord shall make the glory of his voice to be heard, in the joy of your heart. (Psalm) O Shepherd of Israel, hearken, O guide of the flock of Joseph. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. (Repeat antiphon.)

Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S 76


Celebrant: Bless-ed be God: ✠ Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.


People: And bles-sed be his king-dom, now and for e-ver. A-men.

Collect for Purity

ALmighty GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

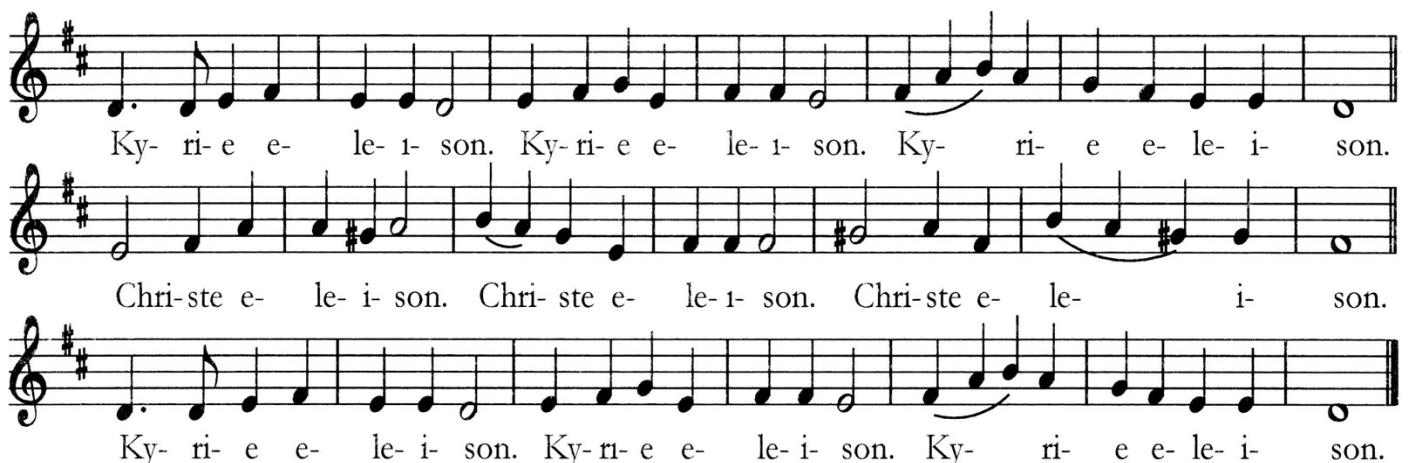
Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison (sung by all)

H. Willan


Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.
Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Chri-ste e-le-i-son.
Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

MERCIFUL GOD, who didst send thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah II: 1-10 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; but 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the



Tree of Jesse ~ Absolon Stumme

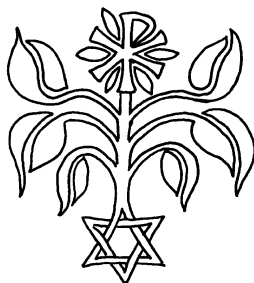
waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the LORD.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.



- 1 GIVE THE King thy | judgments O God,
** and thy righteousness / unto ^ the King's son.*
- 2 Then shall he judge thy people ac- / cording un^to right,
** — / and defend ^ the poor.*
- 3 The mountains | also shall ^ bring peace,
** and the little hills righteousness | unto ^ the people.*
- 4 He shall keep the simple / folk by their right,
** defend the children of the poor, and punish / the wrong doer.*
- 5 They shall fear thee as long as the sun and | moon endureth,
** from one generation | to another.*
- 6 He shall come down like the rain up- / on the mown grass,
** even as the drops that / water the earth.*
- 7 In his time shall the | righteous flourish;
** yea and abundance of peace, so long as the | moon endureth.*
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, even the / God of Is^rael,
** which only / doeth wond^rous things;*
- 19 And blessed be the Name of his | majesty ^ for e^ver:
** and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. / Amen, Amen.*



The Epistle: Romans 15: 4-13 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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, 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"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

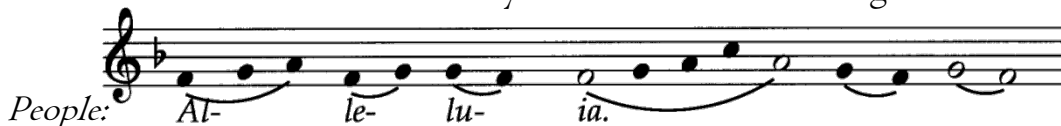


Alleluia *Laetatus sum*

Tone VI



Choir: I WAS GLAD when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord.



The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 3: 1-12 [RSV]

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

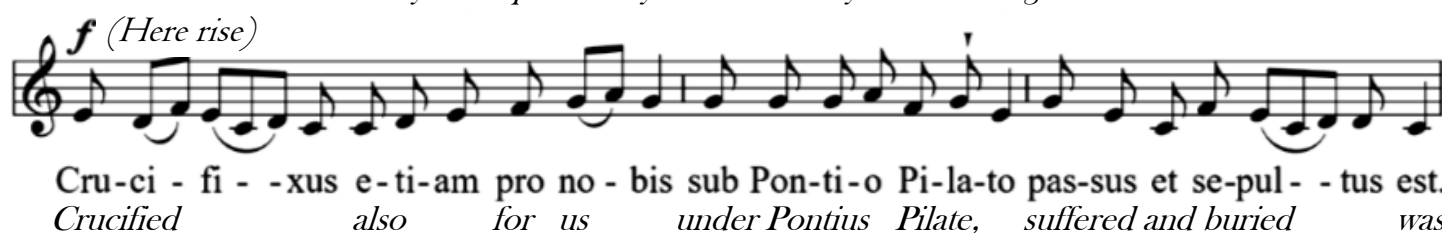
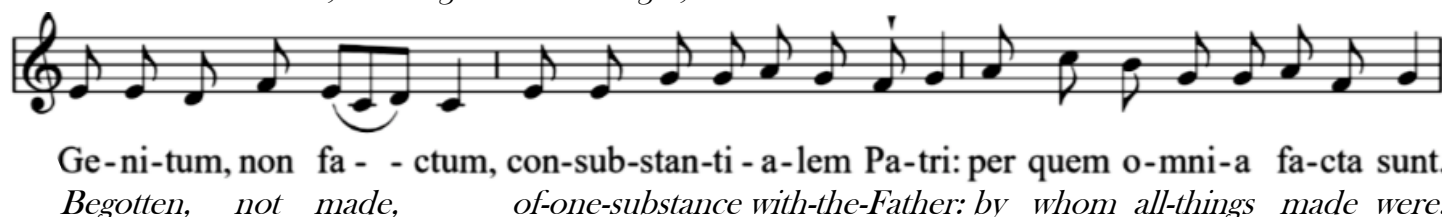


The Sermon

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, Curate

The Nicene Creed from *Missa de Angelis* (sung by all)
Cantor

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326
All





Et re-sur-re-xit ter-ti-a di-e, se-cun-dum Scri-ptu-ras. Et a-scen-dit in coe - - lum:
And rose-again the-third day, according-to the-Scriptures. And ascended into heaven:



se-det ad dex-te-ram Pa - - tris. Et i - te-rum ven-tu-rus est cum glo-ri - a
he-sits at the-right-hand of-the-Father. And again to-come is with glory



ju - di - ca - re vi - vos et mor-tu - os: cu - jus re - gni non e - rit fi - nis.
to judge the-living and the-dead: of-whose kingdom not shall-be an-end.



Et in Spi - ri - tum San-ctum, Do - mi - num, et vi - vi - fi - can - tem:
And in the-Spirit Holy, the-Lord, and giver-of-life:



qui ex Pa-tre. Fi - li - o - que pro - ce - dit. Qui cum Pa-tre et Fi - li - o
who from the-Father and-the-Son proceeds. Who with the-Father and the-Son



si-mul a-do-ra-tur, et con-glo-ri - fi - ca-tur: qui lo-cu-tus est per Pro - phe-tas.
alike is-worshiped, and together-is-glorified: who spoken has by the-Prophets.



Et u - nam, san - ctam, ca - tho - li - cam, et a - po - sto - li - cam Ec - cle - si - am.
And in-one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.



Con - fi - te - or u - num ba - ptis - ma in re - mis - si - o - nem pec - ca - to - rum.
I acknowledge one baptism for the-remission of-sins.



✠ Et ex-pe-cto re-sur-re-cti-o-nem mor-tu-o-rum. Et vi - tam ven-tu-ri sae-cu-li.
And I-look-for the-resurrection of-the-dead. And the-life to-come of-the-world.



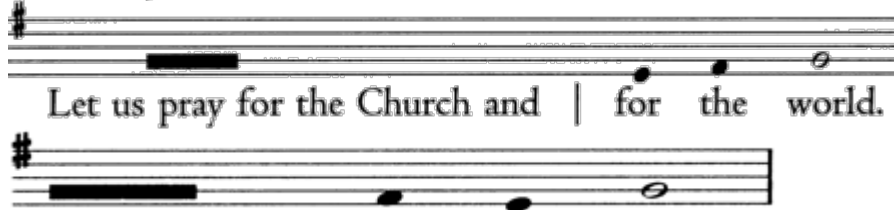
A - - - - - men.



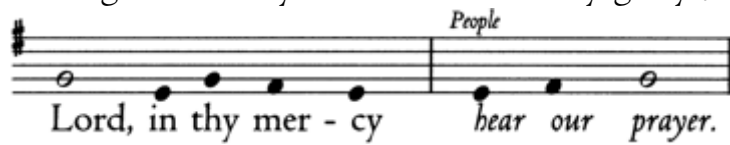
The Prayers of the People

Form IV

Leader:



Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (*Silence*)



(*Sung after every intercession*)

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [*especially N.*]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (*pause*); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. People



A - men.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

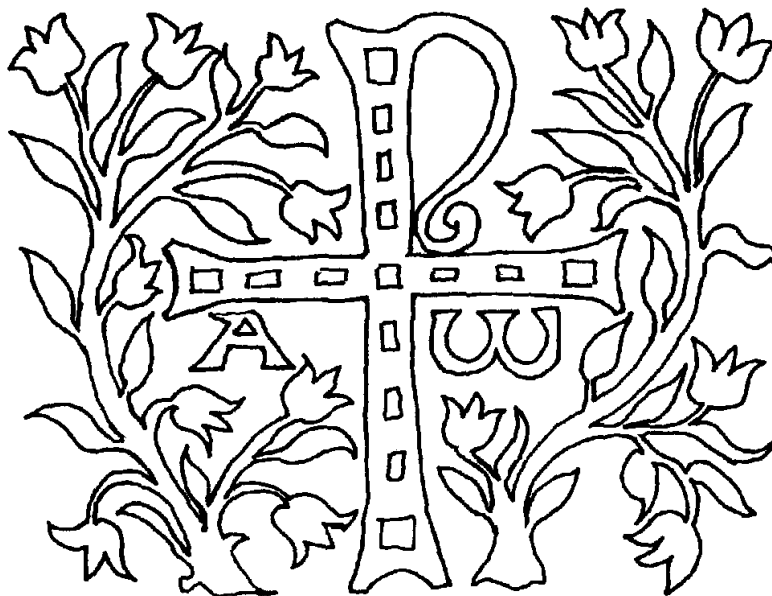
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spi-rit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.





THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50: 14*

Offertory (*choir*) *Deus, tu convertens*

Mode III

WILT THOU NOT TURN AGAIN, O God, and give us life, that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show unto us, O Lord, thy loving mercy, and grant unto us thy salvation.

Hymn 76 (*sung by all*)

"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

Celebrant: The LORD be with you. *People:* And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. *People:* We lift them up un - to the LORD.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BECAUSE thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS·SANCTUS·SANCTUS

Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo-ry. Glo- ry be to
thee, O Lord Most High. Bless- ed is he that com-eth in the
Name of the Lord. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender
A mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our
redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect,
and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and
did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of
that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks,
he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is
given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to
them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is
shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,
in remembrance of me." ✠

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly
beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make
here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee,
the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed
passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering
unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the
same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty
goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy
gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our
Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be
partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and
death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole
Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be
a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all
others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most
precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ✠ be filled with thy grace and heavenly
benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any
sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing
our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be
B unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People

—●—○—○—
A- men.



The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

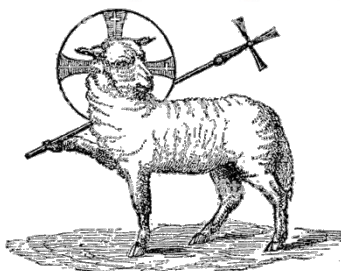
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name,
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us this day our dai-ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas-ses,
as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in-to
temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil. For thine is the king-dom,
and the power, and the glo-ry, for ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

The Fraction

Celebrant
Al-le-lu-ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us.

People
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al-le-lu-ia.



Agnus Dei (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world,
have mercy up-on-us. O Lamb of God, that
ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mercy up-
on-us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-
way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion (*choir*) *Jerusalem, surge*

Mode II

JERUSALEM, ARISE! and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God thy Savior.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.



Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness ~ Pieter Bruegel 1564-1638

Motet (*choir*)

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

PEACE be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins: who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Advent Blessing and Dismissal

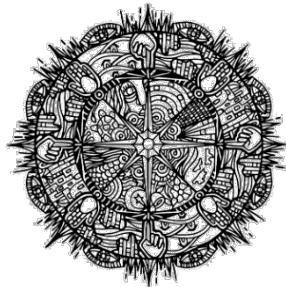
MAY Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.* May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



The Last Gospel

St. John I:I-I4

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

People: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.

That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(*Here genuflect*) AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, (*Here rise*) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER, quæ p rvia c eli porta manes, et stella maris, succ rre
Acad nti, S rgere qui curat p pulo: Tu qu  genuisti, nat ra mir nte, tuum sanctum
Genit rem, Virgo prius ac post rius, Gabri elis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miser re.

[Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, to the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.]



THE ANGELUS

Celebrant: The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

People: Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(*Here genuflect*) *Celebrant:* And the Word was made flesh.

(*Here rise*) *People:* And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

People: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



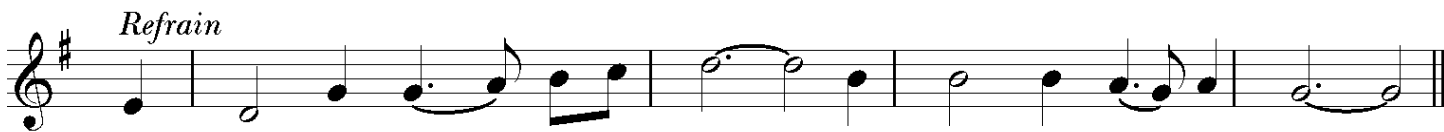
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Voluntary: Prelude in G minor

Gabriel Pierné (d. 1937)



**Join us for an Advent program discussing
Dietrich Bonhoeffer's landmark work:**



Life Together

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" explores the nature of Christian community, emphasizing that it is a divine reality created by God rather than a human ideal. The book highlights the importance of mutual support among believers, the necessity of worship and prayer together, and the need for personal devotion, ultimately arguing that true community is rooted in Jesus Christ.

December 5, 2025 at 5:30 PM

December 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM

December 19, 2025 at 5:30 PM,

the last session followed by a fellowship meal

at Grace Episcopal Church

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford CT



Grace at Christmas



CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 P.M. MUSICAL PRELUDE

WITH CAROLS OF THE SEASON

for choir and congregation by candlelight

8:30 P.M. SOLEMN HIGH MASS

Also streamed on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford



CHRISTMAS DAY



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. LOW MASS WITH HYMNS

Also streamed on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford

~~~~~✠✠~~~~~ **GRACE NOTES**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

December 7 The Second Sunday of Advent

FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

THE REV. ROWENA KEMP welcomes hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact her if there's something you'd like to discuss, and please contact her immediately should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that she should know about. [For such emergencies, please note Rev. Rowena's cell phone number: 203-209-4178.]

PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

A reminder: Tori Burns manages this list for us, and prayer requests need to be renewed after 2 weeks.

Please communicate all prayer requests & updates with her (860-539-8790); (tburns@gracehartford.org).

- *Bishops and Clergy:* Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury designate; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our curate.
- *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* **We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish, that we may have the hands and hearts to carry out thy will;** for the Episcopal Church in CT & the Anglican Communion; Christ Church, Bethany; St. Thomas', Bethel; Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield; ministries for the unhoused; parishes that offer temporary or permanent shelter; Chapel on the Green, New Haven & Church by the Pond, Hartford; and the Homelessness & Housing Ministry Network. *The Church of Bangladesh.*
- *World & Community Concerns:* For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Sudan the Congo and Somalia; and between Russia and Ukraine; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; for those who are suffering because of extreme climate; for the hungry and poor in our midst; and the volunteers who serve *A Place of Grace* food pantry.
- *Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church):* Brian, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, and Charles.
- *Thanksgiving and Celebrations:* We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Celeste Rodriguez (Fri.) whose birthday we celebrate this week.
- *Sick or in need:* Stephen & Ratana; Peter; Veronica & the Rovetti Family; Kathy; Lucy; Jane; Paulo Junior; Felix & Carmen; Mark; Jerry; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Tom; Kristen & Quintin; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Soncia; Tom; Gail; Camden; Joan; David; Neil; Lea; Megin; Kathy; Patti; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Diane; Michael; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of Sandra & Dana "Rick" Richardson, Nancy Grace Garrison, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Edward Klemonski, Michael Icaza, Bill Jensen, and Oswald Francis.

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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

**THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR**

**55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123**

**Church telephone: 860-233-0825 Church fax: 860-233-5082 Rectory telephone: 860-994-5022**

**Rector's cell phone: 203-209-4178 Rector's email: [RevRowena@gracehartford.org](mailto:RevRowena@gracehartford.org)**

**Church e-mail: [church@gracehartford.org](mailto:church@gracehartford.org) Website: [www.gracehartford.org](http://www.gracehartford.org)**

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**<https://www.facebook.com/GECHartford> ; <https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford>**



## ***THIS WEEK AT GRACE***

**Sunday, December 7** *The Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on YouTube*)

**Tuesday, December 9** *Advent Feria*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

**Wednesday, December 10** *Advent Feria*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 11** *Advent Feria*

10:00 a.m.: “A Place of Grace” food pantry distribution

**Friday, December 12** *Jane Frances de Chantal, 1641*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Office Hours

5:00 p.m.: **Advent Series ~ LIFE TOGETHER**

**Saturday, December 13**

10:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.: “A PLACE OF GRACE” **CHRISTMAS GIFT DISTRIBUTION**

**Sunday, December 14** *The Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on YouTube*)



Visit “Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT” on FACEBOOK & “@GraceEpiscopalHartford” on YOUTUBE  
Please join and help us spread the good news online!

