

The Holy Eucharist for Advent

2024

10:00 am



**PRE
PARE
THE
WAY**



SAINT PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIocese OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST
FOLEY, AL

Large print bulletins available in the narthex

About Advent

Every year the Church retells and relives the story of our faith through the liturgical calendar. In the annual repetition we are both reminded of and included in the story.

The liturgical Church year begins with Advent. The word *advent* means *coming*. In Advent the Church first focuses our attention on the next coming of Christ at the end of things then shifts to preparing us to celebrate the annual remembrance of Christ coming to us in human form which we mark at Nativity/Christmas. While at times the Advent has been considered a penitential season like Lent, it is better understood as being a season of expectancy.

In some traditions Advent can be five or seven weeks in length. Our Advent is kept on the four Sundays and following weekdays proceeding Christmas Day. **This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 22th which is the day our Bishop will be with us to celebrate our Centennial.**

The theological theme of the coming of the Christ light into the world is made visible by the use of the traditional Advent wreath on which the number of lit candles increases each week. Advent wreaths were traditionally part of home devotions but when the practice started falling into disuse they began to move into the Church and became part of the weekly worship. The circular shape of the wreath and the use of evergreens are symbols of the eternal nature of Christ.

Advent calendars with a small candy, prize, or scripture verse behind each door are also common. A modern version of an Advent calendar is to place a food item into a box each day of Advent and give the filled box to the food bank at Christmas.

The liturgical color of Advent is blue or sometimes purple with rose being used in places on the Third Sunday of Advent to reflect the lighter character of the scripture lessons appointed for the day.

Advent is not an extension of the Christmas season. For this reason traditional Churches do not sing Christmas carols during Advent.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *see weekly insert*

Entrance Hymn *see weekly insert*

Opening Acclamation

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

Collect for Purity *(said together)*

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.

Song of Praise (Trisagion)-repeated three times*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day *see weekly insert*

The Lessons *see weekly insert*

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *(standing)*

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

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, you loved the world so much you sent your only Begotten One to take our human nature, that in his death and resurrection we might be united to you in your eternal reign. With confidence in your loving kindness we now pray to you;

For your bishops, priests, deacons, and all the baptized, that your holy Church may be found without fault at the day of Christ's coming again. God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and for all in authority, especially those places that are torn by war and partisan divisions, that the world might know peace among all peoples. God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For this world into which your Son was born and to which he shall come again. For the health of your creation, for the will to ensure a healthy planet to future generations, and for an end to greed and destruction. God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For all who are in any need or want, for the poor and the hungry, for the wealthy and the too well fed, for the powerful and the powerless that neither lacking enough or having too much all may flourish.

God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For those who suffer in body and for those who in this season of expectation and joy wrestle with sadness and anxiety, that the peace of Christ may dwell in them in abundance. *Silence is kept for a time during which the People may add their petitions either silently or aloud.* God in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

For those who are victims of injustice and oppression, that looking to Christ and his Church they may find help and hope. God in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have been your chosen vessels of grace in their time. For John the Baptist and Mary the Mother of Our Lord, and we pray for those whom we love who have passed from earthly to eternal life, that your will for them may be fulfilled. *Silence is kept for a time during which the People may add their petitions either silently or aloud.* God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept for a time.*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest grants the Absolution

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ came to live and die as one of us, so that we might be reconciled with God. For his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the name of God and with the authority of Christ's Church, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace *If not already doing so the People now stand.*

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn

Presentation of Offerings *the People stand as the offerings are brought to the Altar*

Refrain
Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you, take our lives, O Father we are
yours, we are yours. verse
Yours as we stand at the ta - ble you set; yours as we eat the bread our
hearts can't for-get. repeat refrain
We are the sign of your life with us yet, we are yours, we are yours.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer C BCP p.369)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Presider

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might

Hymnal 1982 #S130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As as Savior Christ has taught us we now pray.

People ***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 *a period of silence is kept.*

Presider Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Hymnal 1982 #S164

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world.

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider God has prepared a banquet for us.

People ***Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.***

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *see weekly insert*

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing for Advent

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.***

Announcements

Hymn *see weekly insert*

The Dismissal

Presider As we await the day of Christ's coming, let us take up the work he has given us to do. Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus.

People ***Maranatha, Thanks be to God.***

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