

Celebrant: Let us pray: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

The First Reading: *(Lector)* A Reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah lived seven centuries before Christ was born. Yet he spoke with intense hope of a time when an anointed king of David's line would come to bring righteousness and justice to Israel and give the nation the security it so desperately needed and earnestly desired.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
[33:14-16]

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

The special relationship between God and Israel as well as the personal faith of the Israelite psalmist form the central theme of this instructional poem. In Hebrew, each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This was done for easier memorization.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Reading: (*Lector*) A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

The two letters of Paul to the Thessalonians were probably the earliest writings of the New Testament, possibly dating to no more than fifteen years after the resurrection of Christ. Prominent throughout these two short letters is the expectation that Christ would soon return to establish his eternal reign of justice, peace and love.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.
[3:9-13]

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual:

Hymnal 68 v 1

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation! at midnight comes the cry.

THE GOSPEL (*Please stand*)

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The expectation of Christ's return dominated early Christian thought. Many of the concepts and images to portray these ideas are drawn from Jewish apocalyptic writing found in the Hebrew scriptures and are also influenced by writings from the period between the Old and New Testament.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
[21:25-36]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gradual:

Hymnal 68 v 2

See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

SERMON (*Please be seated*)

NICENE CREED (*Please stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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 I (*Please stand or kneel*)

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God,
and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church
of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all 78 churches of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, for the Anglican Communion
Diocese of Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, and for the universal church, that they may be filled
with thy truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Dabney our Bishop, Tom our
Rector, and for all the clergy and staff of St. Paul's, let us pray
to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe our President, Ron our governor, our county commissioners & those who advise them, for the
leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Naples, for every city and community, and for those who live in them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of
the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the
wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and
for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We offer thanksgiving for those celebrating the anniversary of their birthday this week, Shirley Klein, Elizabeth Hotaling, Mick King, Kyle Gorgas, Ray Davila, and Eric Kiehl, and all those celebrating anniversaries: especially John & Aggi McLaren.

For [_____ and] all those on our parish prayer list, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died, (especially _____,) in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

ABSOLUTION *Celebrant:* 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

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

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (*Please stand*)

OFFERTORY (*Please be seated during hymn*)

Shine, Advent Candle, Shine!

Choir

Jean Anne Schafferman

Doxology (*Please stand*)

Hymnal #380 v 3

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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...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

Hymnal # S 130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, 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 people kneel or stand as the Celebrant continues)

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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

GREAT AMEN *Amen, Amen, Amen*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant & People sing: *The Lord's Prayer* Worship #740

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant & People sing:

Fraction Anthem: *Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus* Hymnal # S-171

All: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

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

COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish a blessing instead, please fold your hands across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

See us Lord about your altar

Chor

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are nearby and far away.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we were slaves;
this is the way we should live with you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from you.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand or kneel)*

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.

BLESSING

Celebrant: And finally my brothers and sisters, live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shall be with you this day and all the days of your life.

CLOSING HYMN *(Please stand)*

Hymnal #616 vs 1, 2, 4, 5

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,

whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand forever, his changeless Name of Love.

The Celebrant issues the DISMISSAL

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

March in D

J. S. Bach

Welcome visitors! We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall, after the service.

Today's 10:00 a.m. Worship Leaders: *Celebrant & Homilist:* The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, *Deacon:* The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, *Eucharistic Ministers:* Linda Connelly, *Lector:* Lynne LaMarca, *Intercessor:* Van Geoghegan, *Music Director / Organist:* Eleanor Phelps, *Ushers:* Joyce Cashin & Buddy Jackson, *Greeters:* Katie Judnich

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Active Altar Guild Members: Judy Allen- Lee Barron

Nora Broszeit – Carol O'Connell - Nancy Smith - Mia Tajawandee - Cindy Tysiak

Other St. Paul's Sunday Worship Services

8:00 am Rite I

5 pm Worship in Creole

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, Rector

The Rev. Panel Guerrier, Assisting Priest for Creole Worship

The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, Deacon, Seasonal

Deb Avery, Parish Administrative Assistant

Virgil Manuel, Comptroller

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