

**The Liturgy of the Word
The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
Grace Episcopal Church**

Prelude Liebster Jesu, wir sind heir BWV 731 J.S. Bach

Choral Introit *An Advent Responsory* Brooks

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader	May the grace and peace of God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Leader	As we make our Advent pilgrimage, looking forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us in prayer and praise, thanksgiving and song, give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that Christ's reign of love and light will indeed come among us. Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.
People	Come, O long expected Jesus, come.

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be the one, Holy and Living God.
People **Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
 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 Expectation *The Song of Zechariah* *EOW 27*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence -- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind -- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Lo, He comes with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. David Burman

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Manz

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, let us offer our prayers for God's people everywhere saying, Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Awaken your church throughout the world, O God, that we may bear the fruit of repentance and sow the seeds of hope and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We pray for the leaders of all nations, and for the peoples of the earth; guide us with a spirit of wisdom and understanding, that we may live in peace with one another. Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others, and all may know the abundance of your love. Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We pray for all who suffer in body, mind and spirit, especially
Roberta, David, Edith, Terrie, Alex, Roberta, Jeanette, Wanda, Emma, Darlene, Andrea, Steve, Jim, Celeste, Judy, Bethann, Julie, Dwight, Angela, James and Barbara, Trevor, Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Peggy, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Cooper, Sally Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Bren who is deployed as a nurse in the pandemic.

We pray for Angela, who is with child.

We pray for all whose homes are in peril or uprooted because of climate change, for all displaced because of hurricanes, fires or other disasters.

We pray for all who remain on the front lines of this pandemic: for health care providers, those who grow and process food, staff grocery stores, provide transit, transport supplies, care for the young and the aged and those who are sick. We pray for all suffering from illness, those who have died, and all who grieve as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Give them courage and hope in their troubles, that they may rejoice in your salvation.

We pray for those who have died, especially Libby, aunt of Bill, who died this week.
Lord, in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Creator of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay, and you form us in your image. Shape our spirits by Christ's transforming power, that as one people we may live out your compassion and justice, whole and sound in the realm of your peace. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

**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.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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.**

The Blessing

Postlude *Sonata Op.65 No. 4 Andante Religioso* Mendelssohn

Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. David Burman
Advent Wreath	Eddie and Elijah Bunting
Lectors	Terry Burnett, Jim Dorris
Intercessors	Brittany Williamson, Nolan Scott
Guest Organist	Patrick Rice
Director of Music	David Long
Singers	Steven Hinkle, David Long, Megan Long, Elisabeth Schrock, Janelle Wagoner, Trevor Wagoner
Video	Richard Lanham, Janelle Wagoner

Announcements

Join Us for Online Worship at 9am & 10:45am Sundays

During this time of Social Distancing, we will continue to stream videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am and again at 10:45am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along

with the Grace Notes weekend issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am or 10:45am video streams, you can always go back and watch later.

No In-person Worship on November 29th at 3:30pm

Due to rain in the forecast, we will not be holding in-person worship this afternoon, but will resume next week if the weather permits.

Clergy Outdoor Office Hours

The Rev. April Berends will be in the courtyard on Tuesday, December 1st from 9am-noon. The Rev. David Burman will be in the courtyard from 1pm-4pm on Friday, December 4th. As always, if you would like to meet for prayer or conversation outside of office hours, our priests would be happy to see you. Contact April (aberends@saygrace.net) or David (dburman@saygrace.net) to set up an appointment.

Brainerd Market Holiday Markets

With the safety of its customers foremost in mind, **the Farmers' Market will offer its second holiday market outdoors in the Brainerd Road parking lot on Saturday, December 5. It will run from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. -- the regular hours of the normal Saturday markets.** Shoppers can expect to find good from their favorite Saturday vendors along with additional sellers who have signed up for the holiday sessions.

Because of these additional vendors and an expanded number of goods, **a number of volunteers will be needed on those days to help set up and break down. Setters-up should plan to arrive around 9 a.m. and breakers-down around noon on either or both days.** If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Lisa Revenig (lisarevenig@gmail.com); Catherine Durham (catherinerdurham@gmail.com); or Erica Kelley (erica.d.kelley@gmail.com). They will be thrilled to hear from you!

Sacred Ground Dialogues around Racial Healing

The Sacred Ground dialogue circle on racial healing meets Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Sacred Ground focuses on issues of race and racism and the difficult, transformative conversations that we need to have around these issues. Sacred Ground sessions invite participants to understand the racial history of this country and the church in order to faithfully respond to the challenges around race that surround us today. Unfortunately, this group has reached capacity. Stay tuned for additional offering on racial justice and other topics.

Morning Prayer and Compline

All are invited to escape from the madness and rest your mind and soul via Morning Prayer on weekdays and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., and services of Compline at 8:00 p.m. each evening. We all need reminders of essential realities that transcend the medical and political context in which we find ourselves.

Here are the links for Daily Morning Prayer and Compline:

[**Weekday Morning Prayer**](#)

[**Weekday Compline**](#)

Community Care in Anxious Times

Grace check-in team leaders are continuing to contact parishioners via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/ or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.