Holy Eucharist Advent 1C

November 28, 2021

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd= ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09 Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777 Passcode: 782611

Prelude

The Word of God

All stand as they are able

The Great Litany

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth.
Have mercy on us.
Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy on us.
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent.

Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws; from sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,

Savior deliver us.

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared; in all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of judgment,

Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,

Savior deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will. Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

Hear us, O Christ.

Enlighten our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, and those in formation, with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word, and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit. Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived. Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice. Give your wisdom and strength to Joseph, the President of the United States; Gretchen, the Governor of this state; and Jane, the Mayor of this city; that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth. Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

Hear us, O Christ.

Bless and keep all your people. Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved, and the oppressed. Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in peril. Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit [especially _____], and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble. Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died [especially _____], and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word:



Collect of the Day

Presider	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Presider	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**.

All sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

ReaderThe word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

Those on the pulpit side of the church will begin the reading, with those on the organ side **responding with the bold font text.**

1 To you, O God, 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. 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. 3 Show me your ways, O God, * and teach me your paths. 4 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. 5 Remember, O God, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting. 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O God. 7 Gracious and upright are you; * therefore you teach sinners in your way. 8 You guide the humble in doing right * and teach your way to the lowly. 9 All your paths are love and faithfulness *

to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.*People* Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel



Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

GospellerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with

power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.



³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

GospellerThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Peace

All stand as they are able.

PresiderThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

The Presider then says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used. Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

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The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The people remain standing.

The Presider says

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our 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.

Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Presider continues

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,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

The Presider continues

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 St Barnabas 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 Presider then says

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

These are the Gifts of God. And we are the people of God.

And in union and solidarity with your faithful people who are not able to be present at this table, we pray together:

Strengthen and sustain us with your grace, Lord Christ, and let us never be separated from you. Come spiritually into all of our hearts, Lord Christ.

May we live in you, and you in us, in this life, and in the life to come. Amen.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

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

A priest blesses the people, saying

God of hope, when Christ your Son appears may he not find us asleep or idle, but active in his service.

And may the blessing of the Holy One who made you,

+Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 454

Jesus came, adored by angels





Dismissal

A minister says

And now, my siblings in Christ, I bid you go in peace to love and serve our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Compline for Advent 1 will be on Wednesday, December 1 at 7:00 via Zoom. <u>Link here</u> Meeting ID: 861 7998 0160 Passcode: 046006 You are encouraged to come and pray a while, in quiet and reflection during a stressful and busy time, with your siblings in Christ

Continuing our donations of food and funds to Faith In Action, which provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. If you bring food directly to FIA, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **Sunday**, **December 19**. Please leave your donations at the church on that day.

The St B Quilters will be collecting quilts for their show beginning Friday, November 26 and Wednesday December 1st. If you have a quilt you would like displayed, please bring it to church Sundays or Fridays between 1-3pm. Include a note pinned to your quilt with your name and any history you have of the quilt. A big thanks for your support. Have questions? Contact Kitty.

A reminder that the Faith In Action family Christmas project is underway. We would be grateful for your support! Please contact either Jan S or Sarah S to let them know how you can help. We have a family of 5 that we are sponsoring this year. Gifts that you purchase and bring in are due to the church by December 12!

Upcoming Commemorations

November 28 Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii, King and Queen, 1864 and 1885 30 Andrew the Apostle

- December 1 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637; and, Charles de Foucauld, Monastic and Martyr, 1916
 - 2 Channing Moore Williams, Bishop, 1910
 - 3 Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552
 - 4 John of Damascus, Priest and Theologian, c.760
 - 5 Clement of Alexandria, Priest and Theologian, c.210

Advent 1C November 28, 2021

BIBLE STUDIES THAT WORK

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

During Advent and Christmas, we will be using study prompts and other activities tied to the sermon for the week. Read the sermon and follow-up with responses to the two questions at the end.

Waiting by Michael Toy

It's Advent again! It is that season where we are oriented—in everyday life as well as liturgically toward Christmas. And yet, there are some stops we must make along the way. In today's waypoint, our readings look forward to Jesus' triumphant return. Today, we look to the apocalypse. The prophecy from Jeremiah signals the coming of the fulfillment of God's promise when all shall live in peace and justice. This era of justice and flourishing for all people, we can all probably agree, has not yet come to pass. The coming Messiah was meant to usher in this age of peace on earth, end to war, and an end to the woes of humanity. And yet, in our gospel reading from Luke, Jesus says that time has not yet come. Instead, he is declaring prophecies of distress, roaring of waves, fear and foreboding. This time of distress of the Son of Man's return is not far away in the future, according to Jesus, who teaches, "Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place."

Reading this sentence plainly or literally surely is a bit embarrassing. A bit embarrassing not just for us, but for Jesus as well. It certainly seems like he is saying that his return will be imminent. Here we are, nearly two thousand years later, and the second coming of Jesus has still not occurred. So, was Jesus wrong?

Our impulse is to rush to the answer, "No!" We want to rush to an explanation of how this surely was not what Jesus could have meant. We want a clarification that meshes with our ideas of

orthodoxy and our theological commitments. We want to say, as we all too often do, "That's not what Jesus meant." We're not good at waiting. We rush for answers. We rush for explanations.

But to be seasonal, let us engage with the text using an "Advent hermeneutic." Hermeneutic is the word used to describe an approach to and interpretation of Scripture. Thus, in this season of waiting, let us hold off from that immediate jump to making this make sense. Instead, let us wait. Let us sit with the discomfort that these passages bring us.

Was Jesus wrong? What would it mean if Jesus were wrong about this? His generation certainly did pass away before seeing him returning, descending in a cloud with power and great glory. If he were wrong, would that change the way we see Jesus as fully divine? If we maintain that Jesus was fully divine but wrong about the timing of the apocalypse, would it change the way we think of divine omniscience? If Jesus were wrong about the timing, could he have been wrong about other aspects of the great return?

These questions are not easy to sit with. And yet, they are important questions to ask—especially for that generation to whom Jesus was speaking. Imagine being part of that first generation of Jesus' followers. Jesus has promised that he would return. But now, people are dying, and understandably, the church is a bit confused. These questions we've been raising, these are the questions that the community in Thessaloniki was asking as well. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians is about precisely this issue. Jesus was expected to have come back before this generation passed away. Now, people are dying, and the community is concerned about the place those who have passed will have in the coming kingdom. When is Jesus coming back? Was Jesus wrong? Is Jesus coming back at all? Has Jesus left us alone with our death and our suffering? Words from today's psalm surely capture some of that anxiety, "My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me." And what enemy seems more triumphant than death? Weren't you supposed to come by now? Weren't you supposed to come save us?

These are the questions that come up while we sit with this conundrum using our Advent lens. Paul's response to the Thessalonians is simultaneously theological and pastoral. Further on in the letter, he addresses the community's fear about those who have already died, affirming that they will experience resurrection and have a place in the coming kingdom of God. He also acknowledges those feelings of grief, helplessness, and powerlessness that accompany that feeling that God has abandoned or forgotten us. He declares that we wait with faith.

To wait with faith is to acknowledge that the waiting is not pointless. It is to believe that the waiting will be worth it. In addition to cognitive belief, waiting is a time for feeling. We see in Paul's letter that he himself is waiting to see this community again. But his faith influences the way that he waits to be reunited. While apart, he reaches for that feeling of joy found in each other's presence: "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." Here, Paul is naming the joy of Christian connection, but he is also naming the fact that he misses this community of his friends.

Waiting is a time to look around and recognize that all is not as it should be or could be. Waiting is the time to lean into these feelings of longing. It is a time to lean into those feelings that not

all is right, and that there is something better to come. It is a time to dream; it is a time to imagine. When we wait, though it seems that death and suffering run rampant and unrestrained through our world, we dream of being comforted. We dream of being reunited with loved ones. We dream of a time when God is going to make everything alright. To echo the words of Jeremiah, we dream of a time when God's promise is fulfilled, and all will live in safety and in flourishing. We dream of a day when God will execute justice and righteousness throughout the land.

In the coming weeks of Advent, we will hear of the prophets who came to prepare the way for Jesus, especially John the Baptizer. We will hear a message of repentance and of a baptism of fire. And of course, we will hear of Mary and Elizabeth. The task before us is to read and hear these stories in the spirit of Advent.

Advent is a time to stop and to hesitate. It is a time to dig into the discomfort and seeming incongruities Scripture presents to us. It is a time to linger with questions rather than rush to answers. These moments of delay or disruption create space to feel. In these coming weeks leading up to Christmas, may we all pause and look around. May we notice those things which are and those things we wish would be. Certainly, we believe in Christmas and the theologies of Incarnation and of God's presence with us. But we also believe in the not-yet. We hold onto those feelings of discomfort and of doubt. We believe in Christmas, but let us also believe in Advent.

What does it mean to believe in Advent? To believe in Advent is to believe in waiting. And may our waiting be full of dreams for a better world, full of God's justice and love made present to all. Amen.

1. Compared to even a few years ago, what is your relationship with waiting? Are you more patient? Less patient? Why?

2. When you find yourself becoming impatient this week – with a friend or family member, with a colleague, with God – slowly repeat this prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus."

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. **Kyrie Eleison** from *Wonder, Love and Praise* #837 **Final Hymn** tune *Lauda anima*, at Hymnal #410

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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