



**Holy Cross Episcopal Church**

First Sunday of Advent  
The Holy Eucharist Rite One  
Sunday, December 3, 2023

# The Bidding & Lighting of the Advent Candles

*The Season of Advent takes its name from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming” or “visit.” Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. For Christians Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year. During Advent we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of our Jewish ancestors for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and new beginning.*

## THE BIDDING FOR ADVENT

*A hymn may be sung. Once the community has gathered the Presider greets the assembly.*

*Presider* Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

*Presider* Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this journey of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath. To slow down as we anticipate Jesus’ coming once more into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us; to listen for the beating of God’s heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings. As we gather for this time of worshipful anticipation let us in the silence rest in God’s presence.

*A prolonged silence is kept.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Presider* May Christ, the One whose coming we await, fill our homes and hearts with joyful anticipation as we journey to the manger. Amen.

*Presider* Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories.

*Presider* The candle of this first week of Advent is a candle of hope. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the hope that came to this world when Jesus was born. Jesus said, “I came so that everyone would have life, life in all its fullness.”

*Once the candle is lit, the Presider continues*

*Presider* You called the patriarchs and matriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfillment.

*People*     May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Amen.

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

**ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 323)**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 323)**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*People*             Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY AND GREAT COMMANDMENTS (BCP p. 323)**

*The Celebrant says*

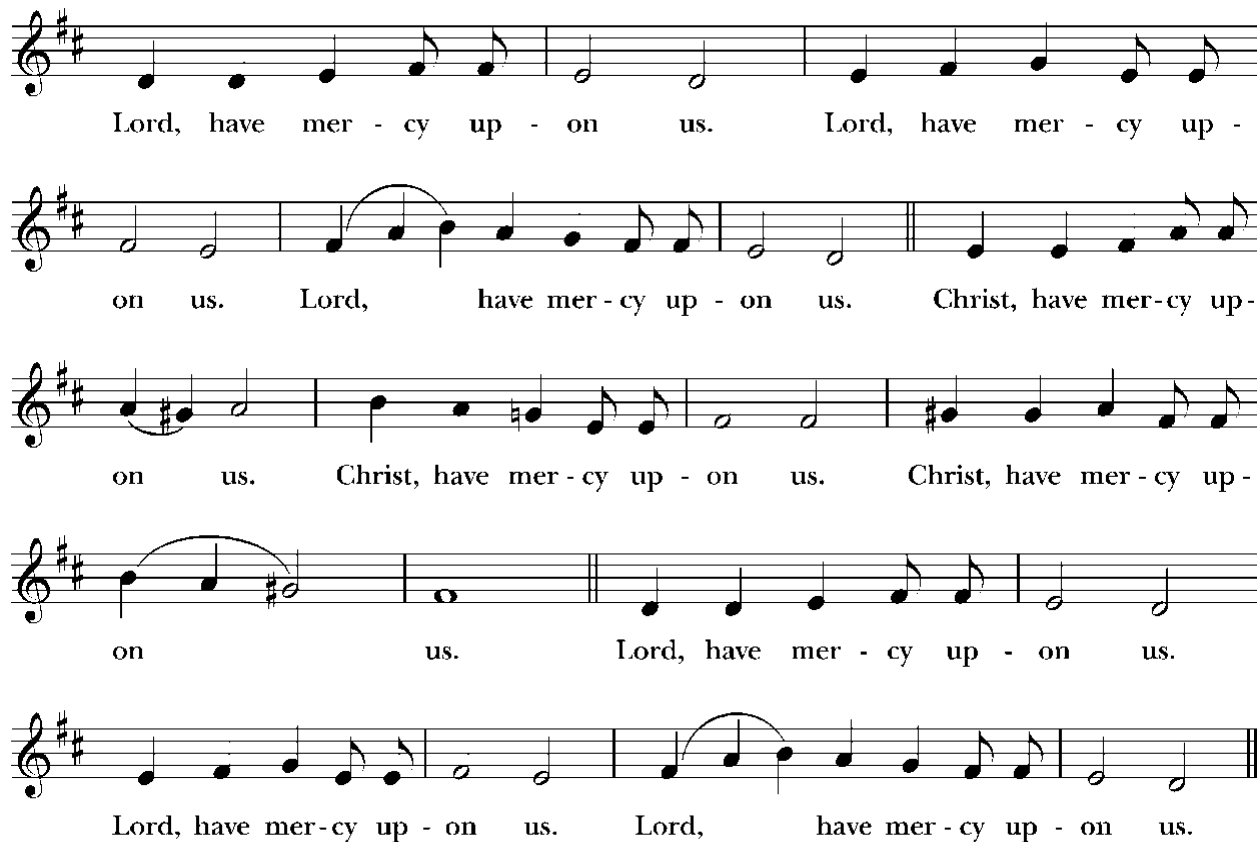
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.

**OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 91 Lord, have mercy upon us (Willan) (BCP p. 324)**

*The following is sung, all standing*



### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>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!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
 we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>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.

*Silence may follow.*

## **PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
 stir up your strength and come to help us.  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, \*  
 how long will you be angered  
 despite the prayers of your people?  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>16</sup>Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.  
<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.  
<sup>18</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 326)**

*All stand.*

## **GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

*All stand.*

<i>Priest</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
<i>People</i>	Glory be to thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>“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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise be to thee, O Christ.

## **THE SERMON (BCP p. 326)**

### **THE CREED (BCP p. 326)**

*All stand.*

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.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 328)**

*All remain standing.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers [especially \_\_\_\_\_], that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land [especially \_\_\_\_\_], that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially \_\_\_\_\_], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [\_\_\_\_\_ and of] all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.



Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.  
*Amen.*

### **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 330)**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and 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.

*The Priest stands and says*

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.*

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

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

*1 John 2:1-2*

### **THE PEACE (BCP p. 332)**

*All stand.*

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

*People*                      And with thy spirit.

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

## The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

*The Celebrant says*

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

### OFFERTORY HYMN (BCP p. 333)

## The Great Thanksgiving

### SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 333)

*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is meet and right so to do.

### PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 333)

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

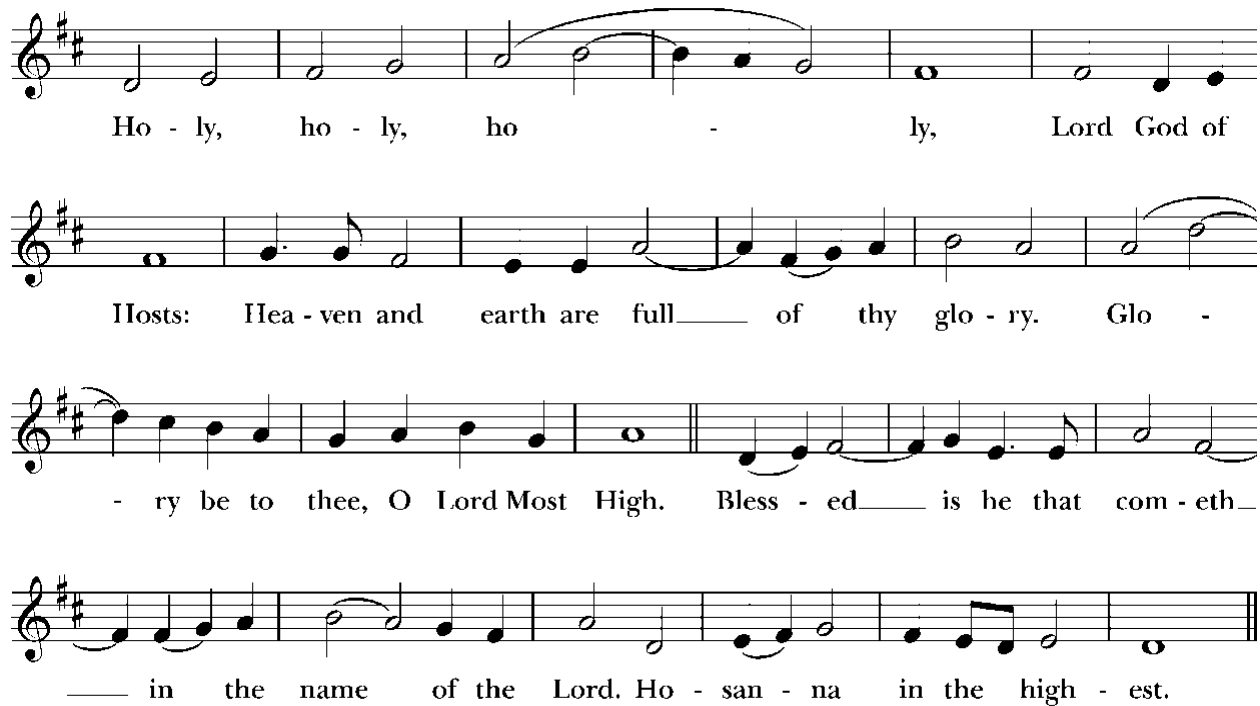
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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 S 114 *Holy, holy, holy (Willan)* (BCP p. 333)

*Celebrant and People*



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 334)

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender 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 unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)**

*The Celebrant then continues*

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

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 337)**

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

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP p. 337)**

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

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.*

**INVITATION (BCP p. 338)**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 338)**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

**SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR**

*If Eucharistic Visitors are to be sent out, the Visitors go to the altar rail and the following form is used.*

*Presider* We send you out to share Communion this day.

*People* May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

*Presider* May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 339)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

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.*

**BLESSING (BCP p. 339)**

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 339)**

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

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### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552  
Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**John of Damascus, Priest and Theologian, c.760  
Monday, December 4, 2023**

**Clement of Alexandria, Priest and Theologian, c.210  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

**Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, c. 342  
Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

**Ambrose of Milan, Bishop and Theologian, 397  
Thursday, December 7, 2023**

**Richard Baxter: Pastor and Writer, 1691  
Friday, December 8, 2023**