Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



First Sunday of Advent
Ante-Communion, Rite Two
Sunday, November 29, 2026

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN

THE BIDDING FOR ADVENT

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.

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

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 The candle of this first week of Advent is the candle of Hope. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the hope that came to the 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 Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed heir of all things.

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.

Penitential Order

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

Almighty God have mercy on US, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen*.

OPENING ANTHEM (BCP P. 358) *O come, O come, Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel)* (H 56), verses 2 &8

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

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 Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9
The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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

[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.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The people sit.

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

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Silence may follow

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SEQUENCE HYMN

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37
All stand.

Presider A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

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

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

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

Priest The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)
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

Presider "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." In this season of anticipation and hope, let us be seekers of the light and peddlers of hope found in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Leader You who dwell in the darkness and the light, in the silence and in the sound; dwell in the hearts of your people that in hope, peace, joy and love, we may be agents of your heavenly reign and await with anticipation the coming of Christ, the Morning Star. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope, and love. Christ beour light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and

labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos. Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least,shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering especially those we name: *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife. Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we now name: *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Leader You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse, and neglect our fellow creatures. Christ be our light.

People Shine in our hearts.

Presider May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope; that following the way of Jesus and filled with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be a holy people whose lives and living inspire, incite, and inflame your world with compassion and care. Through Jesus the Christ,the light of the world. *Amen.*

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)
All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)
And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637, or
Tuesday, December 1, 2026

[Charles de Foucauld, Monastic and Martyr, 1916]
Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Channing Moore Williams, Bishop, 1910
Wednesday, December 2, 2026

[Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552]
Thursday, December 3, 2026

John of Damascus, Priest and Theologian, c.760
Friday, December 4, 2026

Clement of Alexandria, Priest and Theologian, c.210
Saturday, December 5, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday, December 2
Reva Arnold Food Pantry, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, December 6
Ante-Communion Rite II, 9:30 AM