



**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 1, 2024**      **8:00 a.m.**



**Welcome to Church of the Ascension**

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to  
**Connect** with God and one another,  
**Grow** in faith and understanding, and  
**Serve** the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all  
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded**

# The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome  
Prelude

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

## ✠ Opening Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
**His mercy endureth for ever.**

## Collect for Purity

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.**

## Lighting of Advent Wreath Candle

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope.  
We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (*Psalm 33:20*)  
Let us pray.

**Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.**

## Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

## Hymn of Praise

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,**

**with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** 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 First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

- 1 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.
- 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 LORD, \*  
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 LORD, 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 LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

### **The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **✠The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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."

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

**The Sermon:** Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

### **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, let us present our prayers to God.

O Lord our God, you created a wonderful world, and we thank you for its indescribable beauties; we pray for all that is broken in the world because of human actions. As we look for the last coming of Christ, we pray you to heal this world in which we can see a glimpse of your beauty and power. In Jesus' name, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, through Christ's incarnation, passion, and resurrection you redeemed humankind and united in one body all races, nations, and people of the earth. We pray for all our brothers and sisters in humanity; we pray also for all the leaders of the world that they may work for the common good of all your children. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, you send your Church to share Christ's love to all the peoples of the earth; we pray for your Holy Church scattered around the world; guide, inspire, and strengthen all your children, Sean, our presiding bishop, Carrie, our bishop and all ministers, that together, we may bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, with the Incarnation of your Son, you showed us that humankind is infinitely precious in your eyes, and your Son taught us that all we do to the least of his brothers and sisters we do it to him. Look with compassion on all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially Sherry, Jenny, Molly, Bill, Ernest, Rich, Kadaj, Mary, Rick, Kathy, Kevin and those we name now silently and aloud, that they may feel your loving and healing presence. *(silence)* As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, we rejoice with those having birthdays this week, especially Dorothy, Ellen, and Wilson, send your blessings upon them as they begin a new year. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

O Lord our God, we pray for those who rest in your eternal light and peace, and those we name now silently or aloud, *(silence)*. As we prepare ourselves to joyfully celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, **hear our prayers.**

*Celebrant:* O Lord our God, prepare in us a mansion for your Son, that at Christmas we may be ready to joyfully welcome Emmanuel, God with us, and equipped to share the angels' good tidings, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

## The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

## Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

**O God, our times are in thy hands: look with favor, we pray, on thy servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send thy blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Announcements

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

## **Offertory Music**

### The Celebration of the Holy Communion

*Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code:*

#### **✠ At the Presentation**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



#### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

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,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in 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**

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

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

**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.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

**Communion:** *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.*

### **Communion Music**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**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 thine 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.**

### **The Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he, whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, be rewarded with unending life at his second Advent. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### **✠The Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>December 8</b>
Organist	Mary Butler	
Usher	David Kreider	Charlie Aler
Lector	Cheryl Vecera	Roberta Wilhelm
Acolyte	Charlie Aler	Beverly Baker

### **December Altar Guild: Team 4**

Kim Tompkins Charlie Aler Beverly Baker Jenny Beeker Helen Lang

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Susan Considine, in thanksgiving and celebration of son, Sean's birthday, and in loving memory of Jim Parker.

### **Attendance: November 24:**

8:00 am - 28 10:15 am In-person - 72 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 1 **Total: 105**

### **Readings for Next Sunday: The Second Sunday of Advent - C**

Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 16 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

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**Church of the Ascension | 23 North Court Street | Westminster, Maryland 21157**

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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