

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants December 14th

Lector: *Omega Moore*

Intercessor: *Charles Moore*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to Advent at Gloria Dei!

*The word Advent means **arrival**, and this is the season in which we prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. In Advent, we remember how God's people spent centuries waiting and longing for the arrival of God's promised Messiah, the king who would come to heal this broken world.*

We believe that God's promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. But, in Advent, we remember that Jesus' work of healing is not yet done. Therefore, we also wait and long for Jesus to come again in glory, and we hope for the day when he will wipe away every tear from every eye.

Purple is the color of Advent, representing both Jesus' royal identity (we confess him to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords), and our posture of repentance and longing throughout this season.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader Our King and Savior now draws near!

All Come, let us adore him.

Leader Advent is a time of anticipation, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus and celebrate his gifts to us. The first candle, lit last week, represents hope. Today we light the second candle, which represents peace. *(The candle is lit)*

Leader Lord, grant us your light, that it might shine in the darkness of our hearts, and we may come to the true light of Christ.

Leader Our King and Savior now draws near!

All Come, let us adore him.



Opening Hymn # 444

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Hymnal 1982

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

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Cathy Ufheil

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

(Continued...)

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (3:1-12)**

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon **Rev. Chris Micklewright**

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

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:
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 *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Corin Micklewright

- Celebrant Beginning with a few moments of silence, let us lift up our prayers, using the words of Mary's song (*the Magnificat, found in the Gospel of Luke, 1:46-55*). *(Silence)*
- Intercessor My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
People My spirit rejoices in God our Savior. *(Silence)*
- Intercessor Trusting that God looks with favor on humble servants, we pray for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel; our priest, Chris; our postulant, Rachel; for our congregation, and for the church universal.
People May we be a blessing to all generations, this day and every day. *(Silence)*
- Intercessor Remembering that the Almighty has done great things for us, we declare God's name to be holy and good.
People May God show mercy to all who are afraid today, especially immigrants and refugees. *(Silence)*
- Intercessor Relying on the strength of God, we pray that our leaders may truly work for unity and justice and peace.
People May God scatter the proud in their conceit, and cast down the mighty from their thrones. *(Silence)*
- Intercessor Longing to see God lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things, we pray for all in need in our community, and in the world around us.
People Today, we pray especially for: Alan, Gia, Erica, Patty, Dana, Angel, Christine, Dakota, Emily, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack. *(Long pause for people add their own petitions.)*
- Intercessor Hoping in God's promise of mercy to our ancestors, we pray for all who have died.
(Long pause for other names...)
- Celebrant Loving God, who called Mary to bear our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, hear our prayers; give us grace to follow in Mary's example of bold and revolutionary hope, that we too may be bearers of Christ to the world around us. **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

- Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(silence)*
All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.
- Celebrant 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, Announcements, & Offertory

- Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you. *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

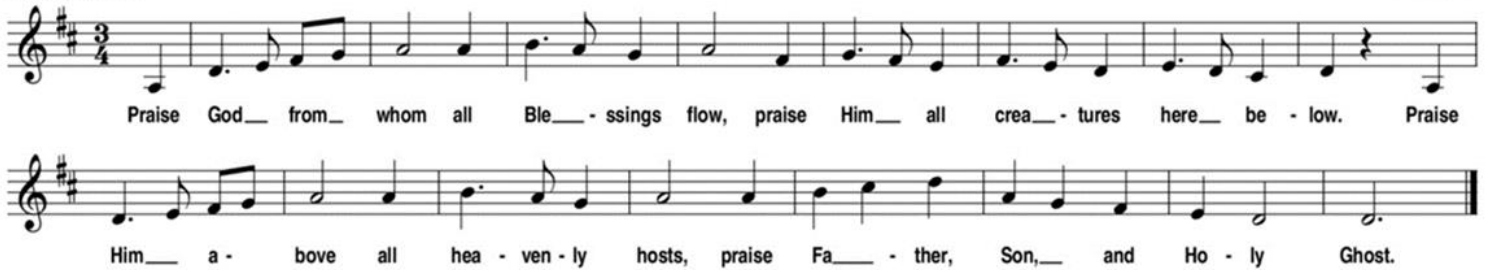
Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessed be God's glorious Name for ever! And may all the earth be filled with God's glory. Psalm 72:18-19

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown



The Holy Communion –Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

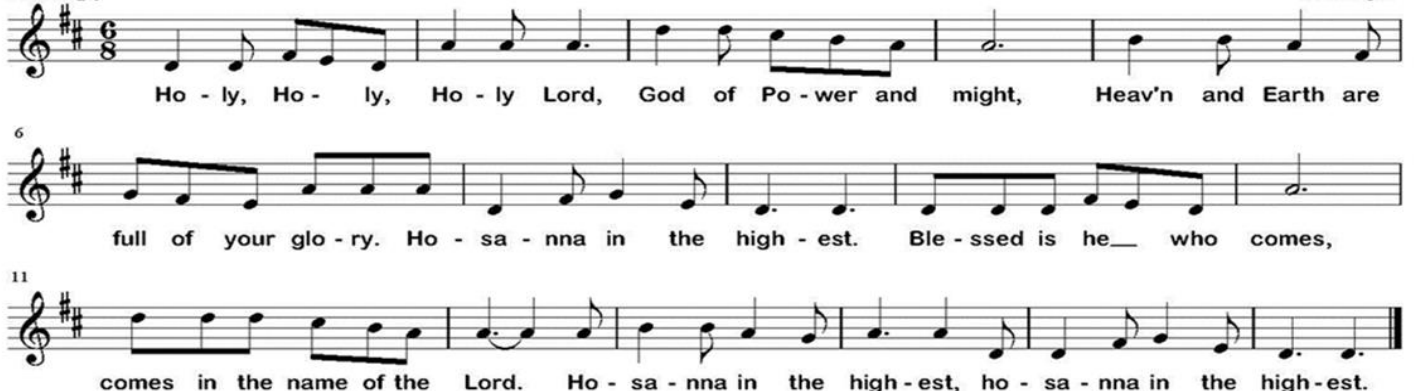
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Flowingly

Paul Fejko



Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People *(In a loud voice.) AMEN!*

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

All	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.
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Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

*All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation. Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. **Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

(Instructions continue on the next page...)

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Instrumental Hymn #69

What is the Crying at Jordan?

Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.

All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Closing Hymn #76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

All' Offertorio

Domenio Zipoli

***All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.***

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
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Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
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Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Gloria Dei Vestry

Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

