

# **Preparing for the Service**

*Welcome to a time of quiet reflection  
in order to prepare for worship.*

*Focus on the Lord. Pray for your own  
concerns. Pray for our church. Pray  
for our world.*

# **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 21, 2025

*Renewed Ancient Text (BCP 2019)*

# Opening Song

**Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates**

**H436**

**Lift up your heads,  
ye mighty gates  
behold the King of glory waits  
the King of Kings  
is drawing near  
the Savior of the world is here.**

**O blest the land, the city blest  
where Christ the ruler is  
confessed**

**O happy hearts and happy  
homes  
to whom this King of triumph  
comes.**

**Redeemer come, I open wide  
my heart to Thee, here Lord  
abide**

**let me Thy inner presence feel  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

# The Acclamation

## BCP 145

*Celebrant* Surely the Lord is  
coming soon.

*People* **Amen. Come Lord  
Jesus!**

Revelation 22:20

# **Collect for Purity**

## **BCP 124**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts  
are open, all desires known, and  
from you no secrets are hid:**



**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Decalogue**  
**BCP 100**

*The congregation kneels.*

God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not make for yourself  
any idol.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**

You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Remember the Sabbath day and  
keep it holy.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

You shall not murder.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**



You shall not commit adultery.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**

You shall not steal.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**

You shall not bear false witness  
against your neighbor.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
incline our hearts to keep this  
law.**

You shall not covet.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and  
write all these, your laws, in our  
hearts, we beseech you.**

# The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*Silence*

*The Deacon and People kneel as able and pray*

**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, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to 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 Comfortable Words**

## **BCP 131**

*The priest stands and says one of the Comfortable Words, as assurance of God's forgiveness of us.*

**The Trisagion**  
**as arranged by Fernando Ortega**

**Holy God,  
Holy and mighty,  
Holy immortal one,  
Have mercy,  
Have mercy on us.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and mighty,  
Holy immortal one,  
Have mercy,  
Have mercy on us.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and mighty,  
Holy immortal one,  
Have mercy,  
Have mercy on us.**

# The Collect for the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People***     **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect  
of the Day*

**The First Reading**  
**Isaiah 7:10-17**  
**page 572**

*After the reading:*

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

# Psalm 24

## page 458

*The congregation says the psalm  
together.*

**<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's and the  
fullness thereof,  
the world and those who  
dwell therein,**



**<sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon  
the seas  
and established it upon  
the rivers.**

**3 Who shall ascend the hill of  
the LORD?**

**And who shall stand in his  
holy place?**

**4 He who has clean hands and a  
pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul  
to what is false  
and does not swear  
deceitfully.**

**5 He will receive blessing from  
the LORD  
and righteousness from the  
God of his salvation.**

**6 Such is the generation of  
those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God  
of Jacob.**

**7 Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient  
doors,  
that the King of glory may  
come in.**

**<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

**<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient  
doors,  
that the King of glory may  
come in.**

**<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!**

**The Second Reading**  
**Romans 1:1-7**  
**page 939**

*After the reading:*

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



# The Gradual Song

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**H56**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind  
bid Thou our sad divisions cease  
and be Thyself our King of Peace**

**Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel  
shall come to thee O Israel.**

# The Gospel Reading

## Matthew 1:18-25

page 807

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel (†) of  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

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

*After the Gospel:*

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Gospeler:* Jesus said to His disciples,  
“Let the children come to me; do not  
hinder them,

***People:* For to such belongs the  
kingdom of God.**

*Gospeler:* Let us pray together:

**Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom so to train them, that they may love all that is true, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, following the example of their Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# The Gradual Song

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**H56**



**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 Sermon

# **The Nicene Creed**

## **BCP 127**

*An ancient statement of the core beliefs of  
the Christian faith*

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus  
Christ,**

**the only-begotten 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 from the  
Holy Spirit  
and 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,**

**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 Prayers of the People

## BCP 128

*After each bidding:*

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

***People* Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant prays closing prayer*

# The Peace

## BCP 131

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

***People* And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant says the Offertory  
Sentence*

# Offertory Song

## The People Who Walk in Darkness (Choir)

© Malcolm Music and Glory Sound

*(Please focus on the Lord as the choir ministers in music)*



# **The Doxology**

**Doxology (Old 100th)**

**H380**

**Please Stand**

**Praise God from whom all  
blessings flow**

**Praise Him all creatures  
here below.**

**Praise Him above ye  
heavenly hosts**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

*The celebrant receives the offering  
and blesses it to be used for the  
purposes of the Gospel.*

*The celebrant then washes their  
hands with the help of an acolyte,  
and prays that God might use their  
hands to provide for His people  
through the Eucharist.*

# The Sursum Corda

## BCP 132

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to  
the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the  
Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him  
thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues the prayer,  
speaking of one of the many  
reasons why it is right to give God  
thanks and praise.*

# **The Sanctus**

## **Schubert**

**Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of power and might,  
Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.**



**Blessed is he who comes  
in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

# **The Prayer of Consecration**

## **BCP 132**

*Unforgetting who God is and what  
He has done for us, and all of His  
creation, in and through His Son,  
Jesus Christ*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery  
of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**



# The Lord's Prayer

BCP 134

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

# The Fraction

BCP 135

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our  
Passover Lamb has  
been sacrificed, once  
for all upon the cross.

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



# **The Prayer of Humble Access**

## **BCP 135**

*Celebrant and People together say*

**We do not presume to come to this,  
your table, O merciful Lord, trusting  
in our own righteousness, but in  
your abundant and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son  
Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be  
made clean by his body, and our  
souls washed through his most  
precious blood, and that we may  
evermore dwell in him, and he in  
us. Amen.**

# **The Agnus Dei**

## **Jessurun**

**Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God**

**You take away the sin of the world  
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God**

**You take away the sin of the world  
grant us Your peace.**

# The Ministration of Communion

BCP 136

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

JOHN 1:29<sup>T</sup>, REVELATION 19:9

*All baptized Christians are welcome and encouraged to take Communion.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, we invite you to come forward, cross your arms, and receive a blessing.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*A prayer team is available in the narthex to pray for healing or other concerns.*

**A Stable Lamp Is Lighted**

**H104**



**A stable lamp is lighted  
whose glow shall wake the sky  
the stars shall bend their voices  
and every stone shall cry**

**And every stone shall cry  
and straw like gold shall shine  
a barn shall harbor heaven  
a stall become a shrine**

**This child through David's city  
shall ride in triumph by  
the palm shall strew its branches  
and every stone shall cry**

**And every stone shall cry  
though heavy, dull and dumb  
and lie within the roadway  
to pave His kingdom come.**

**Yet He shall be forsaken  
and yielded up to die  
the sky shall groan and darken  
and every stone shall cry**

**And every stone shall cry  
for stony hearts of men  
God's blood upon the spearhead  
Gods love refused again.**

**But now as at the ending  
the low is lifted high  
the stars shall bend their voices  
and every stone shall cry.**

**And every stone shall cry  
in praises of the Child  
by whose descent among us  
the worlds are reconciled.**



**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

**H645**

**The King of love my shepherd is  
whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack, if I am His  
and He is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water  
flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth  
and where the verdant pastures  
grow  
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed  
but yet in love He sought me  
and on His shoulder gently laid  
and home, rejoicing brought me.**

**And so through all  
the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd  
may I sing Thy praise  
within Thy house for ever.**

**God So Loved**

**© Hillsong Music**

**Please Stand**

**For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son  
that who-so-ever believes  
will not perish  
they shall have eternal life.**

**I shall hold, to the cross  
I shall hold, to God alone  
for His love has salvaged me  
for His love has set me free.**



**For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son  
that who-so-ever believes  
will not perish  
they shall have eternal life.**

**I shall wait, upon the Lord  
I shall wait, upon His Word  
and by His grace I am released  
by His grace I am redeemed.**

**For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son  
that who-so-ever believes  
will not perish  
they shall have eternal life.**

**By His precious blood  
I have been set free  
for the glory of Jesus' name  
I surrender all  
now to Christ alone  
in Jesus I am saved.**

**By His precious blood  
I have been set free  
for the glory of Jesus' name  
I surrender all  
now to Christ alone  
in Jesus I am saved.**

**For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son  
that who-so-ever believes  
will not perish  
they shall have eternal life  
yes they will have eternal life.**

# Post-Communion Verse

## BCP 136

*The Celebrant offers a sentence of Scripture from the day's readings, as a reminder that what we have received from the table is the same reality we received from the Word.*

# Silent Prayer

*We take time to open ourselves  
to any word from the Lord, either  
for ourselves or for the  
congregation.*



# **The Post Communion Prayer**

## **BCP 137**

**Heavenly Father, we thank you for  
feeding us with the spiritual food of  
the most precious body and blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**

**and for assuring us in these holy  
mysteries that we are living  
members of the body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now Father, send us out to do  
the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful  
witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy  
Spirit, be honor and glory, now and  
forever. Amen.**

# **Announcements**

**We desire to be a church family  
that forms disciples, lives  
generously, and shares the love of  
God in our neighborhoods**

**Today**

Thank you for joining us for worship  
today!

Join us for fellowship after the  
service.

## **Ways to Connect**

**Fellowship Meal** - after the service

**Heckle the Rector** - starting at 6pm

**Christmas Eve @ 4pm /**

**Christmas Day @ 9:30am**

# **The Blessing**

## **BCP 137**

...and the blessing of God  
Almighty, the Father (†), the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit be among you  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**Blest Be The King Who's Coming**

**H74**



**Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God  
For Him let doors be opened  
no hearts against Him barred**

**Not robed in royal splendor  
in power and pomp comes He  
but clad as are the poorest  
such His humility.**

**Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God  
He only to the humble  
reveals the face of God**

**All power is His all glory  
All things are in His hand  
all ages and all peoples  
till time itself shall end.**

**Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God  
He offers to the burdened  
the rest and grace they need**

**Gentle is He and humble  
And light His yoke shall be  
for He would have us bear it  
so He can make us free.**

# The Dismissal

## BCP 138

*Deacon* Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Go in peace, to love and  
serve the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

