



The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg

December 7, 2025 8AM & 10:15AM

Second Sunday in Advent

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

Participants in the service:

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa

**8 AM:** Chalice & Intercessor: Toni DeVore

Lector: Toni DeVore

**10:15 AM:** Chalice: David Cooper

Lector: Bob Crocker

Welcome Center: Sally Harris, Cathy Freed

Director of Music: Ella Rockhold

Intercessor: Linda Crocker

## The Word of God

### Prelude

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

John Bacchus Dykes

### Processional Hymn #76 (vs. 1-4)

“On Jordan’s Bank”

Winchester New

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*Celebrant*

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.**

### Trisagion (Read at 8AM)

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

### Trisagion #S102 (sung at 10:15) (sing 3 times)

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The people remain standing*

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.**

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (11:1-10)**

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. 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*            The word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

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

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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*           The word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn #67**                   "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

*Psalm 42*

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

                  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12)  
*People*       **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.'"

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa

**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.**

*Please kneel*

**Prayers of the People** (from the Church of England)

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father, especially:

*The congregation reads the parish prayer list aloud.*

**Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List**

|                                       |                          |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The People of Israel and Gaza         | Marcia Doyle – healing   | Mary Gevas – healing            |
| The People of Ukraine                 | Peggy Roberts - healing  | Peter Gevas – healing           |
| Victims of gun violence               | Diana Quick - healing    | Ann Stevens– healing            |
| Jone Johnson – healing/strength       | Susan Allander - healing | Dee Milhoan – healing           |
| Vickie Dilley – healing/strength      | Gene Allander - healing  | Buck Harris – strength/healing  |
| Charles Sterchak – healing            | Amanda Morris – healing  | Julie Stover - healing          |
| Ian Israelsen – job search            | Nicole Combs – healing   | Tom Fielder – healing           |
| Wanda Grace Mitchell – healing        | Amy Heckman - healing    | Joseph Fielder – cont'd healing |
| Deb Hepburn-McKinney – facing surgery |                          |                                 |

*Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

*Those needing healing from cancer*

|                 |              |                |               |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Hal Foss        | Julia Lee    | John Stevens   | Lois Switzer  |
| Judy McCoy      | Alana Dailey | Faith Beha     | Chris Angotti |
| Doris Lowe      | Gary Greer   | Wendy Meridith | Mirtala Smith |
| Everett Gilmore |              |                |               |

*Celebrant:*

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession**

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

**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.**

## **Absolution**

*Celebrant*

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

## **The Peace**

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

## **Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **Offertory Sentences**

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

#### **Offertory Music**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Donald Busarow

#### **Doxology Hymn #380 (vs. 3) (10:15)**

*Old 100th*

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 2**

*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 (say):

*Celebrant and People (at 8AM)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Sanctus #130** *(sung at 10:15) Celebrant and People (next page)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



*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. **AMEN.**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

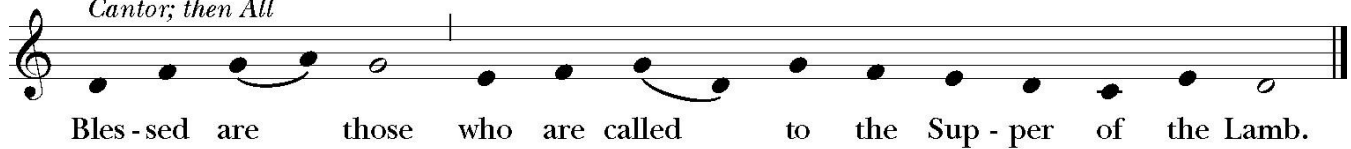
**The Breaking of the Bread**

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

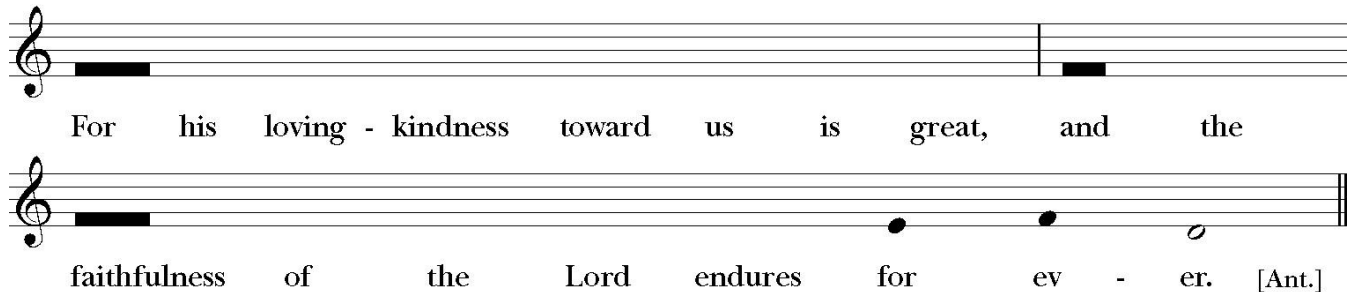
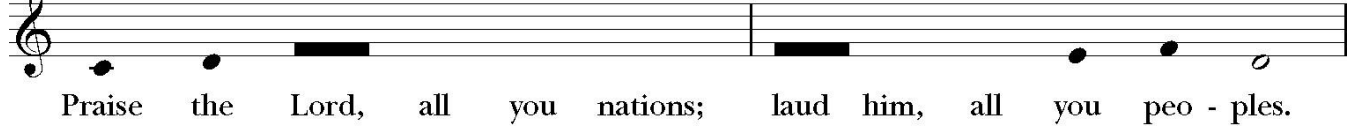
**Fraction Anthem #S172** (sung at 10:15)

*Antiphon*

*Cantor; then All*



*Cantor*



**Invitation to Communion**

*Celebrant* Behold what you are.

*People* **May we become what we receive.**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, followed by those present.*

**Communion Music**

“There’s A Song in the Air”

Cindy Berry

**Post Communion Hymn #60** (vs. 1-5)

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

*Conditor alme siderum*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, 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 for ever. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

**Closing Hymn #66**

“Come thou long expected Jesus”

*Stuttgart*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* As we await our coming Savior, go in the peace of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain for the postlude as you are able.*

**Postlude** “Simple Gifts”

Jennifer Eklund



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“The Great Divorce”** - We are discussing the novel by C. S. Lewis today at 9AM in the Jr. High room. The series will continue through Advent.

**Stewardship** –If you forgot your 2026 Pledge Card, please turn it in as soon as possible. There are extra pledge cards in the Welcome Center.

**Choir Practice** – Choir Practice is on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Like to sing? Come join us!

**Bible Study** meets on Wednesdays at 4:15 PM studying Proverbs. All are welcome.

**Open Altar Flower Dates** – We have open flower dates available. These include Dec. 14 & 28. If you would like to give flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special moment or person, please contact Ginger in the parish office. The new cost of flowers is \$40 per vase.

**Christmas Flowers** – If you would like to give Christmas flowers in memory of or Thanksgiving of someone or something special in your life, just drop a check in the plate marked “Christmas Flowers” along with a description of what you would like printed in the Christmas bulletin. The deadline for Christmas Flowers is Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. There is no set amount for Christmas Flowers, just whatever you can give.

**Adopted Families** – We are distributing the gifts tomorrow through Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who is helping to provide Christmas joy to these families.

**We need more bags!** We are going through so many feeding the homeless and in the food pantry. Just the normal size plastic bags you get at Walmart, Kroger, etc.

### Looking ahead to December:

**Dec. 8-10**     **Adopted Families Distribution and Shopping in the Rummage Room**

**Dec. 15**        Deadline to submit your **Christmas greeting** to the congregation for our special Christmas edition of the Church newsletter.

**Dec. 20**        10AM – 1PM - An **Advent Godly Play program** including lunch at Trinity for children up to age 12. Register by email to [melissacowden@wvdiocese.org](mailto:melissacowden@wvdiocese.org)

**Dec. 20**        **Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service** at St. Paul’s UMC on Market St. at 4PM.

**Dec. 21**        **Christmas Caroling** – If you or a friend or relative would like a visit that evening, call the church with the name & address. We would love to include you. Love to sing? We hope you will join us. All voices are welcome. We will meet at church at 5:45PM.

**Dec. 24**        **Christmas Eve service at 7PM**, Gathering Music starts at 6:30 PM.