

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg

December 14, 2025 8AM & 10:15AM

Third Sunday in Advent

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Participants in the service:

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa

8 AM: Chalice & Intercessor: Greg Cigal

Lector: Greg Cigal

10:15 AM: Chalice: Bob Crocker

Lector: Yazmin Allander

Welcome Center: Vickie Bono, Linda Crocker

Director of Music: Ella Rockhold

Intercessor: Vickie Bono

The Word of God

Prelude

“Prelude on Helmsley”

Robert Lind

Processional Hymn #75

“There’s a voice in the wilderness”

Ascension

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of James (5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

"Canticle of the Turning"

Star of County Down



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2-11)

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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.

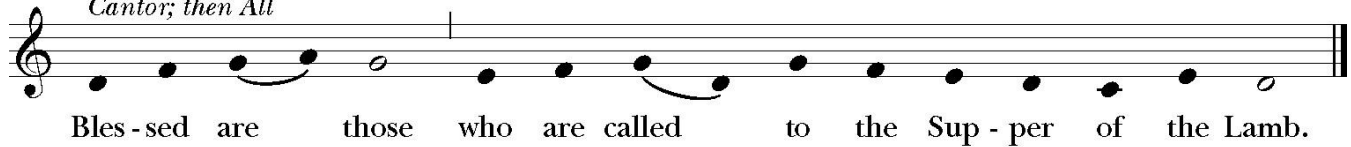
The Breaking of the Bread

<i>Celebrant</i>	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
<i>People</i>	Therefore let us keep the feast.

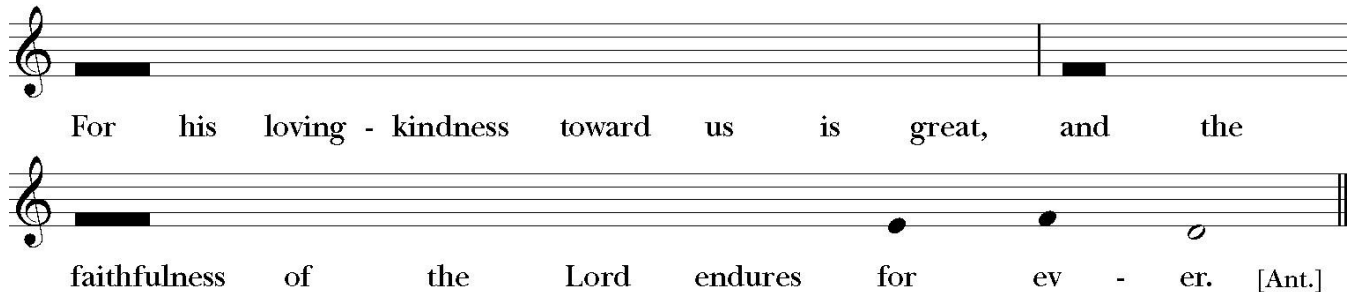
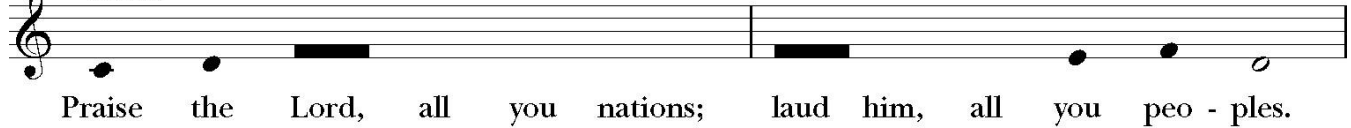
Fraction Anthem #S172 (sung at 10:15)

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

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Lloyd Larson

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: Ava James, Joe Smith

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 “El Desembre Congalet”

Christine Robbins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“The Great Divorce” – The discussion continues through next Sunday.

8 AM Congregation - As of Dec. 28th we will no longer be continuing the 8AM service. We hope you all will join us at 10:15AM.

Stewardship –If you forgot your 2026 Pledge Card, there are extra pledge cards in the Welcome Center.

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. 28, Jan. 4, 11 & 25. 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. 21st. There is no set amount, just whatever you can give.

Looking ahead:

- Dec. 15** Deadline to submit your **Christmas greeting** to the congregation for our special Christmas edition of the Church newsletter. There are sheets for your greeting in the Welcome Center.
- 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
- Dec. 20** **Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service** at St. Paul’s UMC on Market St. at 4PM.
- Dec. 21** **Decorate the tree** in church after the 10:15 service.
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.
- Dec. 28** **Last Sunday Supper**
- Dec. 30** **Food delivery from Mountaineer Food Bank** – Help unload & store at 11AM
- Jan. 6** **6PM Epiphany Prayer, chili cookoff and games**