

Grace Episcopal Church

December 7, 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

Grace's Mission

We are disciples of Jesus, helping one another be the hands and feet of Christ
by sharing God's love with the world.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)

The first candle was the candle of Promise. This candle is the candle of peace. It reminds us that God wants all people to live together in harmony. God has promised that the Holy Spirit will live forever in our hearts to bring peace.

(two candles are lit)

Let us pray.

God of peace and mercy, come to us now in the fullness of your Spirit, that we may know your peace and forgiveness. Help us to worship you, to hear your Word, and to respond with faithfulness. Help us to be like Jesus in all we are and do. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Blue Hymnal #59

Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p355

Trisagion

S-99(Front of Praise Book)

The Collect

BCP p 211

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.

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.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

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.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

- 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 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.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Baptized in Water

Praise Book#51

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

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."

"The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. J. Jeffrey Baker

The Nicene Creed

BCP p 358

Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP p 387

A Prayer for Change: Lord, give us the courage to view the future with hope and expectancy and, most of all, with faith. In the face of change, help us set aside our fears, and urge us to seek and see your hand at work, while opening our hearts to recognize that change brings new life. *Amen.*

Let his resurrection power bring healing and hope to those for whom we pray, For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Valorie Lephart, Vivian, Paul, Sue & Michael. Baby Drake, Aria, 8 yr old Charlie, Willow, George & Sandy Luther, Clare McElroy, Martha Mackey, Phil Bennett, Beth and Ray, Bill, Janet, Chris, Matthew, Janice, Carolyn Stacks, David Petro, Sheila Smith, Kathy Hill, Sherry Occkial , Franny E., Dick D., Kevin, Patty, Erin, Pat, Doug Newyear, Gail, Sue, Susan Shepherd, Riley Gumto and the Stoldt family.

We celebrate the birth day of Pat Newyear.

Grant to those who have died, especially our sister, Charlotte Stoldt, O God of hope, eternal life in you. Bring the departed into your glorious dwelling where all their hope will be fulfilled in your Christ.

Confession of Sin **BCP 359**

The Peace **BCP 360**

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Grace Choir

The Doxology

Front of Praise Book

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer C

BCP 369

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord

Front of Praise Book

The Great Amen

Front of Praise Book

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p 364

Fraction Hymn

Lamb of God

Front of Praise Book

Communion Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Blue Hymnal #66

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p 366

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Blue Hymnal #65

The Dismissal



Christmas Eve:

Seasonal Brass - 6:45pm

Festive Choral Eucharist with Brass at 7pm

Christmas Day:

"Come as you are" Contemplative Service at 10am

