

CHRIST CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ASPEN



THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020

Welcome to Christ Church! We're glad you're worshiping with us today.
Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the House of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Our COVID-19 protocols require that each person in worship wears a mask over their nose and mouth at all times during the service, and that different households sit at least 6 feet apart. If you need to lower your mask for some reason, please step outside of the church temporarily, until you are able to return with your mask on. Thank you for your faithful, loving cooperation in helping us to keep all members and visitors safe and Christ Church open for in-person worship.

10:00 AM

Prelude

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Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

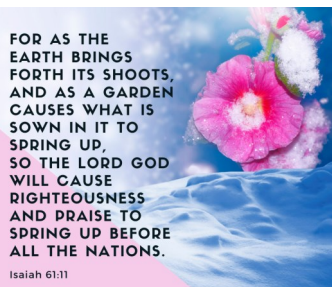
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

The Priest says: 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. (Please be seated.)*



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The full texts can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

The First Lesson
Psalm
The Second Lesson
The Gospel
Homily

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 (Please stand)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Please stand)

The Rev. Peter Munson

The Nicene Creed, p. 358 (Please stand)

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Book of Common Prayer, pp. 387 Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

In silence or aloud, let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.
Let us pray for our families and friends at Christ Church, Aspen.

Prayer list Names:

Christ Episcopal Church Members: Don Davis, Lindsay Gorman, Jessica & Philip Salet, Bob & Marsha Cook, George Baker, Margo & Keith Gardner, BobbiAnn Housma, All those serving their country, the young people and students of Aspen

Friends and Family of CEC Members: Warren Erbson, Heta & Hubert Townsend, Maude Jernagan, Tony Welgos and family, Brad Noel, Julia Munson, Susan & Mickey Spalding, Petra Crimmel, Otto Bontempo

As the pandemic continues throughout the world and here in our own community, we pray for health care workers and those who minister to all who have been sickened by the coronavirus. We pray for healing. We pray for those who have died, and for families who grieve.

A Prayer for the Poor and Neglected (BCP, p.826)

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for Christ Church

Oh Lord, we pray for your continued blessing on Christ Church and all who are part of the ministries of this place. We pray for Peter, our Interim Rector, and for the leadership of Christ Church. Especially at this time of transition, we ask for your guidance as we pursue our rector search process. We know you have a plan for Christ Church, and we ask for your help as we work to discern your will. Be with us we pray. We lift up our prayer of praise, worship and thanksgiving in Jesus' name. Amen

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin (Stand or kneel)

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.

The Peace *All stand.*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another (from a safe distance) in the name of the Lord.

Welcome / Announcements / Birthday & Anniversary Prayers / Travel Prayers

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Music

Gesú Bambino, Arr. Cindy Berry

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The people remain standing) p. 361*

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...etc. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

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

(The people stand or kneel.)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...etc. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father...etc. ...All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.** *[The great AMEN is said as a loud acclamation.]*

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Invitation and Distribution of Holy Communion

After the Invitation, members of the congregation will be invited to come pick up the blessed elements, one per person, at the altar rail. Please come up the center aisle and return to your seat via the outside aisle. After everyone has returned to their seats we will all receive communion together.

Communion Music

Once in Bethlehem, Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

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Post-communion Prayer, p. 365

Celebrant and People: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Blessing by the Priest

Presider: Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted, Emily Lund

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LESSONS, PSALM & GOSPEL

The First Lesson, *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, mourn; and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

The Second Lesson, *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel, *John 1:6-8, 19-28* (Please stand)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Psalm 126 (Please stand)

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
*and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**The LORD has done great things for
us, *and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.

**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. (Please be seated.)**