Ante Communion Service: November 28, 2021, Advent 1C

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Amen.

- *Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all creation. **Amen.**
- *Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A moment of silence for self-reflection

Celebrant	Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
People	Gracious God, have mercy on us.
	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 have not loved all Creation with the love of the Creator. 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.
Celebrant	Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Celebrant	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People	And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Let us pray together: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. Show me your ways, O Lord, * and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, * for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love, and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. Gracious and upright is the Lord; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness * to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Hymn It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain: It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain
- 3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain
- 4 And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul. Refrain

Apostles' Creed Said by all.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

For the peace and unity of the world; That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples. For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression. For all bishops and other ministers; For all who serve God in his Church. For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease; And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one. For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy. For wisdom in this time of pandemic; That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others. For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Silence. The People may add their own petitions. Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great. We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence. We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever. We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. May they rest in your peace eternally. Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together: 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. We pray together for Christ's presence: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: The love we share becomes bread for the world.

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.**

DismissalGo in peace and hope and joy to love and serve God's creation. Alleluia. Alleluia.Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.