



THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Rite

Voluntary

J.S. Bach

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Entrance Hymn

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Hymnal 1982 – 59

Merton

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.”

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4 so when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

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Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

All: **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

See pew card.

The following is sung three times, all standing

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The people sit.

The First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

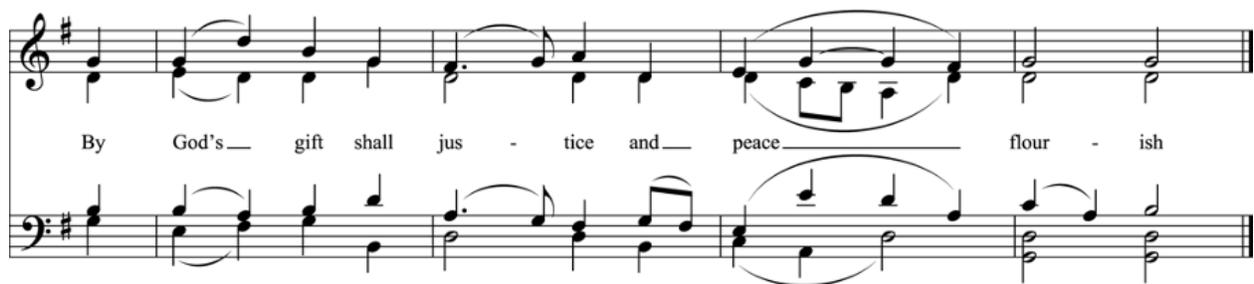
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Remain seated. The Choir will introduce the Antiphon first. The congregation then joins in singing the Antiphon each time.

Antiphon



- 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. **Antiphon**
- 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. **Antiphon**

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. **Antiphon**

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. **Antiphon**

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The Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Remain seated.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

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.**

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 75

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

1 There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

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The Gospel

All remain standing.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Matthew 3:1-12

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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L.J. Cox

The Nicene Creed

All 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

All remain standing.

From Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Intercessor: Friends, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Let us come before the Lord, praying, “Blessed are you, Lord God; *may the earth be filled with your glory.*”

Grant your Church, O God of encouragement, to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that we may glorify you with one voice. Make us a people of repentance and bless us with your Holy Spirit and fire.

Silence.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Intercessor: Grant this nation, O God of justice, the will to defend the needy and the poor. May we sincerely work for that day when hurt and destruction are no more. *Silence.*

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Intercessor: Grant your creation, O God of faithfulness, the hope of renewal. May we who are stewards of this earth, also live at peace with all you have created. *Silence.*

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Intercessor: Grant this city, O God of understanding, prosperity. May all people know and do justice. Teach us and our leaders how best to meet the needs of all our neighbors. *Silence.*

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Intercessor: Grant all the needy, O God of steadfast love, your mercy. Prove yourself to be a God of righteousness and faithfulness. To all their pain and suffering bring your healing and peace. With your winnowing fork clear from their lives all the forces of oppression.

The people are invited to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Intercessor: Grant to those who have died, 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. *Silence.*

Blessed are you, Lord God;

People: **May the earth be filled with your glory.**

Silence. Then, the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 359

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

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

BCP p. 360

All stand

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

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

arr. John Ferguson

Comfort, comfort

“Comfort, comfort ye my people; Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That God’s word is never broken.

“Comfort, comfort” arranged by John Ferguson

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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing.

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.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

**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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Memorial Acclamation

Russian Orthodox

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

The Great Amen

Russian Orthodox

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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

Fraction Anthem

Angus Dei

Russian Orthodox

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

Invitation

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the

Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 54

Savior of the nations, come!

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

- 1 Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!
- 3 Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.
- 4 Come, O Father's saving Son,
who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.

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Lay Eucharistic Minister Prayer *(as needed)*

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist, _____ will take the Eucharist to _____ today.

All: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.**

Blessing

BCP p. 366

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 597

O day of peace that dimly shines

Jerusalem

1 O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

J.S. Bach

Trio Super Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660

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Announcements | Scan the QR code with your camera phone to view All Saints' *Weekly Word* newsletter.

Giving | There are a variety of ways to give at All Saints'. For details, go to www.allsaintsconcord.org/online-giving.



Note on Today's Readings | *The Second Sunday in Advent – Year A*

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church. This is the first of the two Advent Sundays in which John the Baptist is the dominant figure. John's ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah is introduced in today's gospel reading by his preaching: a stern call to repentance. John warns that neither reliance on the religious practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees nor descent from Abraham is of any use unless one turns around and repents.

The first reading is one of the visions of Isaiah. From the almost moribund family of Jesse (King David's father) a new shoot will appear, a new David. This Messiah will establish God's universal reign as a time of peace even extending to the natural world.

Paul's message in the second reading also reflects on the character of the Messiah's ministry as one for all peoples: Jews and Gentiles.

Advent calls all people, not just those who are religious, into relationship with God and with each other. Nevertheless, a key element in this new relationship is repentance, entering into the new Way of living brought through the dying and rising of Jesus.

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You are Invited! All are Welcome!

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

St. Nicholas Activities at 10 AM

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Family Advent Lesson: Joy at 10 AM

December 11 – Advent Lessons and Carols – 5 PM

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Advent Lesson at 10 AM

December 21 – Service of Light – 7 PM

Christine Van Arsdale, harpist

December 23 – Hanging of the Greens – 10 AM

December 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service – 4 PM

December 24 – Nativity of our Lord – 9 PM

December 25 – Christmas Day

Christmas Lessons & Carols – Holy Eucharist – 10 AM

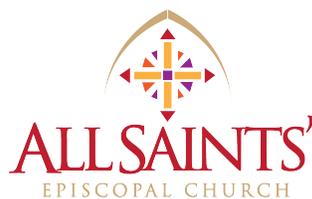
January 1 – New Year's Day

First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist – 10 AM

January 6 – Epiphany

Activities TBA

January 8 – First Sunday after the Epiphany – 9 & 11:10 AM



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