



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 22, 2019—10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

**The Word of God**

*Those who are able are invited to stand.*

Hymn **Hymnal No. 75**  
*There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

[Prayer Book, p. 355]

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*  
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

*The Celebrant says*  
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.**

*The following is sung* [Hymnal S-280]

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people  
on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God  
and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only  
Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you  
take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most  
High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*  
The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily  
visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming,  
may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who  
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons** **See Insert**  
*The People are seated.*

Hymn **Hymnal No.53, vss. 1-2**  
*Once he came in blessing*

**The Holy Gospel**  
*Response at the beginning of the Gospel:*  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Response after the Gospel.*  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** The Rev. Harry Way

**The Nicene Creed** [p. 358]  
*Said by all. Those who are able, 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** [p. 383]  
*Deacon or other leader*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord. (*Please add your own petitions.*)

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of John the Baptist and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant says the following Collect.*

**Prayer for Peace** [p. 815]

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love; So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Then is said*

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** [p. 360]

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

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

Welcome  
Anniversaries (p. 431)  
(also in the pews with the hymnals/prayer books)  
Announcements  
Birthdays (p. 830)  
(also in the pews with the hymnals/prayer books)

## The Holy Communion

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

Offertory

*Blessed Is He Who Comes*

*At the Offertory, the Celebrant says*

All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

*All are invited to receive*

*the Holy Communion at Our Lord's Table.*

## The Great Thanksgiving [p. 367]

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant says*

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, 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:

*Celebrant and People* [Hymnal S-130]

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

*According to ancient tradition of the Church,  
the People are invited to remain standing.*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

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

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist and 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.

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 Celebrant continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant* [p. 364]

**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** [p. 364]

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept..*

*Then is sung* [Hymnal S-154]

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn **Hymnal No. 115**

*What child is this*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**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**

The blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn **Hymnal No. 58**

*Lo? He comes, with clouds descending*

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Alleluia, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.**

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