



# The Second Sunday of Advent

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

December 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

*The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 355.*

**OPENING VOLUNTARY:** Echo Fantasia (Dorian)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

## THE ENTRANCE

**AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 65** “Prepare the way, O Zion”

*Bereden väg för Herran*

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

*The Presider says 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.**

**TRISAGION, HYMNAL, S 102**

Alexander Archangelsky

*Sung three times, by all.*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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 WORD OF GOD

**THE FIRST LESSON** [*The people are seated.*]

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 67** "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

*Psalm 42*

*Sung by all, standing. During the singing of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade may follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6

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

**Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Ann Gillespie

*A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Creed.*

**THE NICENE CREED** *[Said by all.]*

**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.]*

*Form V, Book of Common Prayer, p. 389*

*The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. Throughout you are invited to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* ...we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Intercessor concludes*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*People* **To you, O Lord our God.**

**THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *[All kneel in silence.]*

**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 Presider 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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.** *[The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.]*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.*

**AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM:** "We wait for thy loving kindness"

William McKie

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God: in the midst of thy temple. Alleluia.

O God, according to thy Name, so is the praise unto the world's end.

Thy right hand is full of righteousness: Alleluia.

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God: in the midst of thy temple.

O Lord send us now prosperity. Amen.



The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the second 'All'. The third staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the fourth 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' followed by 'Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.'

**INVITATION** [*The People are seated.*]

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Communion. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** [*Sung by all.*]

HYMN 75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

*Ascension*

HYMN 53 "Once he came in blessing"

*Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

**THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER** [*Said by all.*]

**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.**

**THE BLESSING**

**AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 724** [*green hymnal*] "People, look East"

*Besançon Carol*

*Sung by all, standing.*

**DISMISSAL** [*The people respond,*]

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY:** Toccata (Aeolian)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck