

**The Church of the Good Shepherd, Pitman, NJ**

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**The First Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, November 30, 2024 5:30 pm



***Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd!***

We invite you to participate fully in our worship. We are a community of people rooted in the Christian faith as expressed in the Episcopal Church and worldwide Anglican Communion. We are committed to responsible Bible teaching, unity, diversity, radical hospitality, and beauty in worship. We care about each other, our community, and our world. We hope you will be enriched and refreshed through this experience of worship. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, please know that you are welcome here at Good Shepherd.

# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2024

5:30 pm

## EVENING PRAYER: Rite Two

### THE WORD OF GOD

*Please stand as able*

**The Acclamation**

BCP 115

*Celebrant:* Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Confession of Sin**

BCP 116

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**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 Celebrant alone stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all

goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

BCP 117

*Please stand as able*

*Officiant:* O God, make speed to save us.

*People:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**Alleluia.**

## **O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

BCP 118

*Celebrant and People:*

**O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

## **Psalm 25:1-9** *The Psalm is read responsively by half verse*

1 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.**

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**
- 4 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.**
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 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.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

BCP 118

*Please be seated*

## **First Lesson**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Song of Mary** *Magnificat*

BCP 119

*Celebrant and People:*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,**

**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***

**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me,**

**and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \***

**in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, \***

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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.**

## Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

### **The Song of Simeon** *Nunc Dimittis*

*Celebrant and People:*

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \***

**to go in peace as you have promised;**

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \***

**whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

**A Light to enlighten the nations, \***

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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 stand as able*

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 21: 25-36

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

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

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."

*Lector:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**Homily**

**Charles Lezenby**

*Please stand as able*

**The Apostles' Creed**

**BCP 120**

*Celebrant and People*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**The Prayers**

**BCP 121**

*Please kneel as able*

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant:* Let us pray.



*Officiant and People*

**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.**

### **Suffrages B**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That you holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be  
condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**We entreat you , O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the  
communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our  
life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

### *A Collect for Saturdays*

*Celebrant:*

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *A Collect for Mission*

*Celebrant:*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

*Celebrant:*

I ask for your own prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions, either silently or aloud.

## Announcements

### The General Thanksgiving

BCP 125

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 126

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

*Leader:* Let us bless the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF  
GOD**

## **ASSISTING AT THE LITURGY TODAY**

**Altar Guild:** Ruth Kesser

**Lector:** Wayne Szalma **Chalice Bearer:** Stu Lynd