

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 10:00 AM

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
302 MERCHANTS AVE. FORT ATKINSON, WI

CELEBRANT: MOTHER MINDY VALENTINE DAVIS
READER: SCOTT FERNHABER
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: BRECK MCHENRY
USHER: SCOTT FERNHABER

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THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Prepare the Way O Zion

Bereden vag for Herran

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Franz Mikael Franzen; tr. Composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920) Music: *Bereden vag for Herran*, melody for *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697 Streamed,, reprinted and podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-738046 . All rights reserved.

OPENING ACLAMATION

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

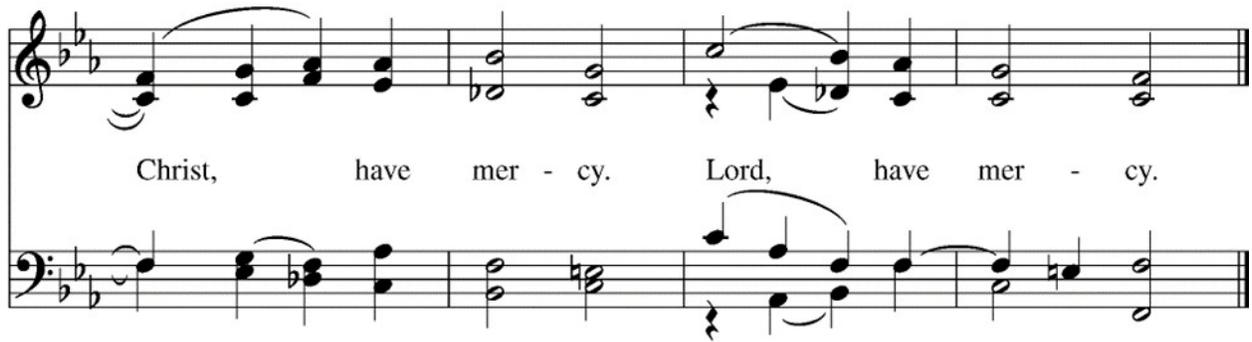
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy.



Setting: Kevin Hackett, (b. 1956), Johann Krueger(1596-1662) Streamed,, reprinted and podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-738046 . All rights reserved.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

The people sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler,
not even fools shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

Remain seated

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

The people sit

Reader A Reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to Go

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

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THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who

takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Mother Mindy Valentine Davis

THE NICENE CREED

Said in Unison

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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of other and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSIOIN OF SIN

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

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

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that
acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices
are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Woodworth

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
* 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,
4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,
5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken

1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me
 2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -
 3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in
 4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise
 5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
 here for a season, then above:
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
 SURSUM CORDA

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 LORD'S PRAYER

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

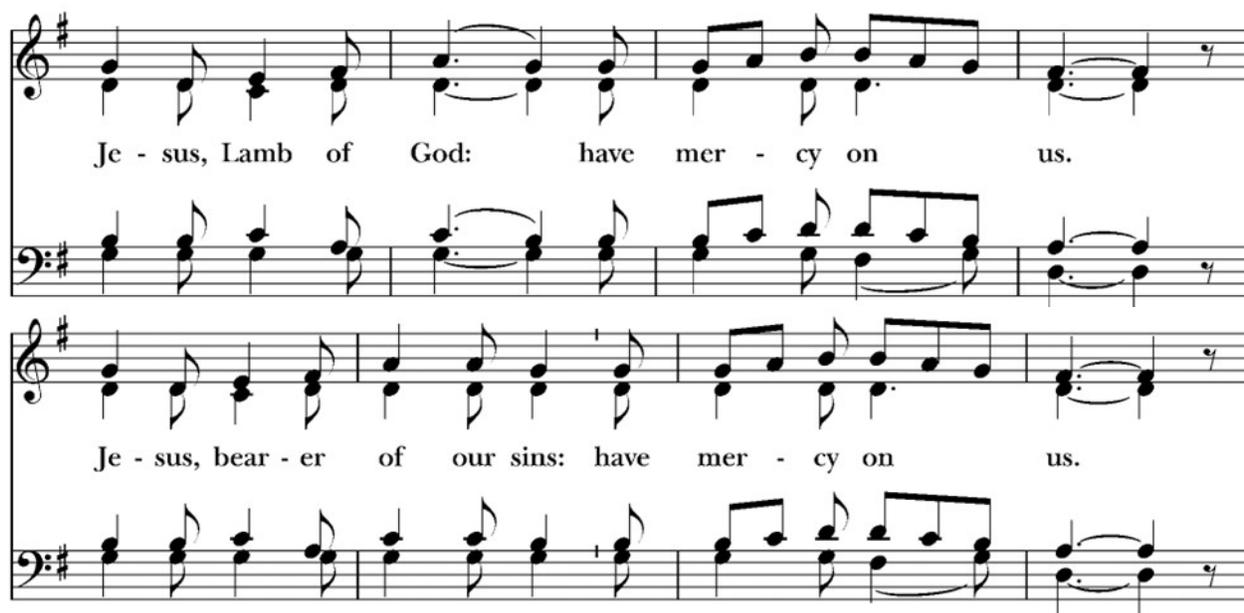
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM





Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

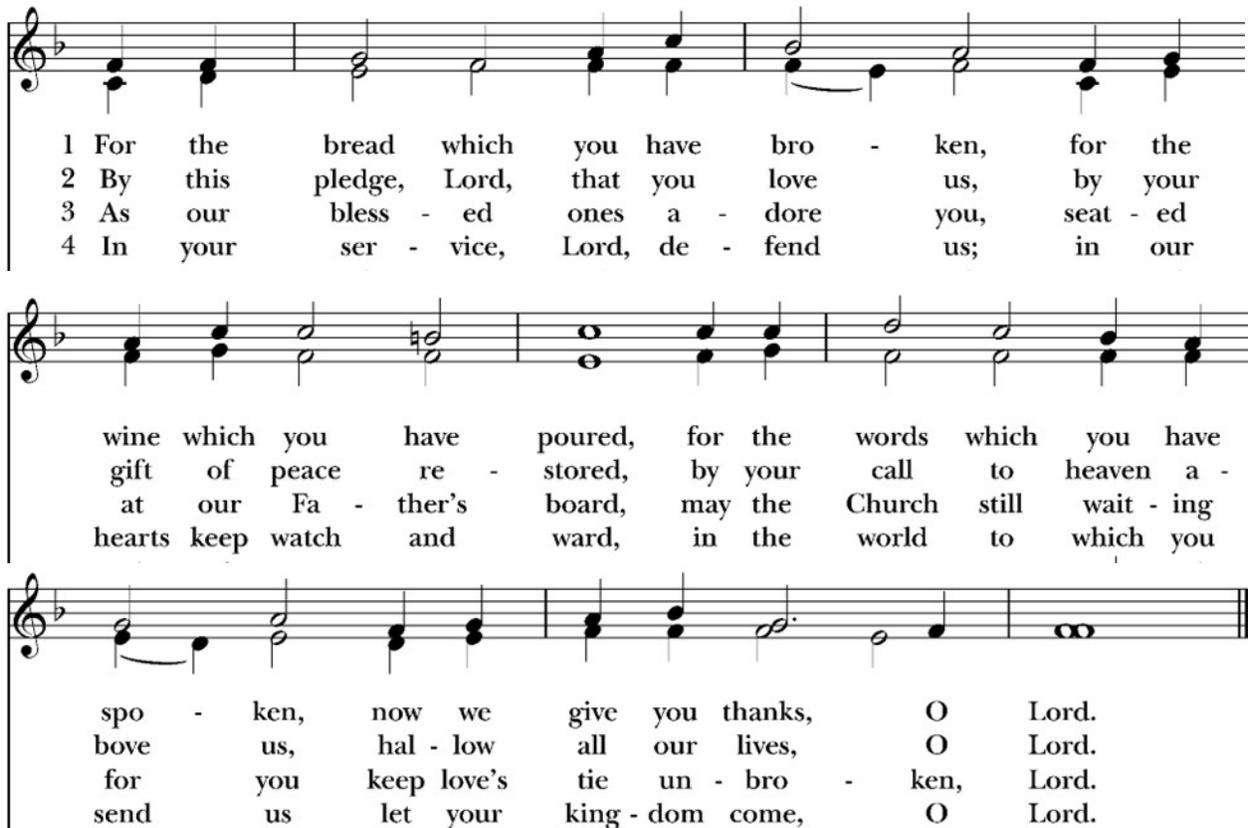
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

COMMUNION HYMN

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Omni die



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our
 wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you
 spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

ADVENT BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

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Our worship has concluded. Your Service Begins.

ACTIVITIES

Monday, December 15 - Thursday, December 18

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 17

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist

12:30 PM Lunch Group

Sunday, December 21

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 AM thru Coffee Hr. BP Screening

8:30 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

11:10 AM CoffeeHour/Fellowship

Host: Amy

PRAYERS

Parishioner Cycle of Prayer: Morgan and Shawn Werner and Winslet

Ministry Rotation Of Prayer: Prayernet

Happy Birthday:

For those who are sick:

Wendy, Jane, Barb, Will, Betty, Matthew, Matt, Diane

Diocese: St. Olaf's, Amherst; Trinity, Baraboo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Flower envelopes will be available through today, Sunday, December 14, as bulletin inserts. If you'd like to have your flower gift memorial noted in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins, we need to receive your donation by December 16.

Blood Pressure Screening— Today, Sunday, Dec. 14 through Coffee Hour. Everyone is welcome!



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FORT ATKINSON, WISCONSIN