

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## *The First Sunday of Advent*

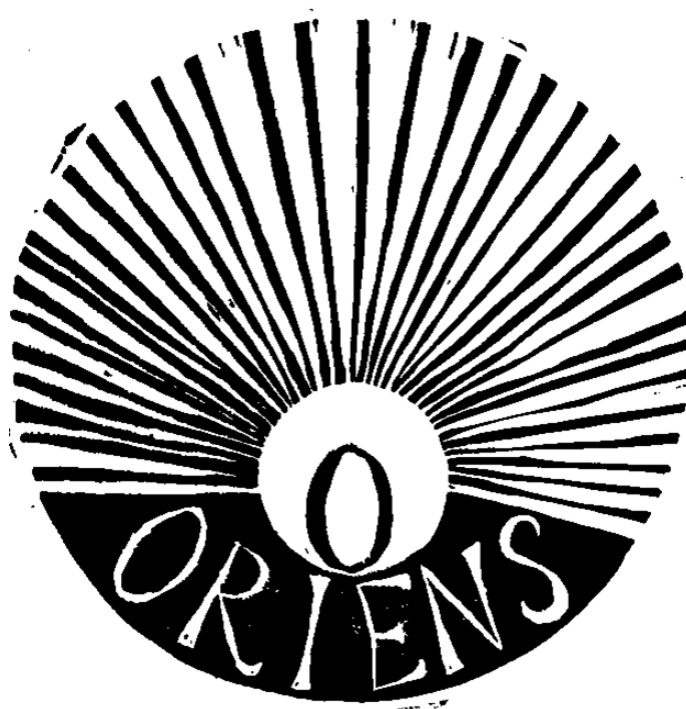
ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 3, 2023 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

---

PRELUDE

*Adagio from Organ Sonata No. 1 - Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

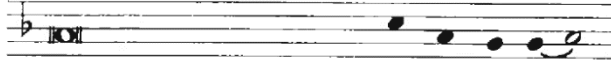
*Please stand as the bell sounds.*



## ADVENT LITANY

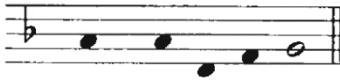
*As the Church Year begins again, we enter it with a litany of penitence and hope, preparing ourselves to receive and be the Light of Christ. Join in the sung responses as together we renew our commitment to listen and follow where God is leading us on this great pilgrimage of faith.*

*The Cantor sings*



God the Father, Creator of hea-ven and earth,

*The People respond to each petition:*



*Have mer-cy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God,

**Have mercy on us.**

*Organ interlude.*

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.



*For-give us, O Lord.*

We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

We have squandered the resources of your creation and been insensitive to the needs of generations yet to come.

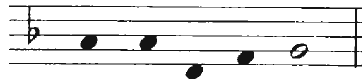
**Forgive us, O Lord.**

Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

*Organ interlude.*

Help us to prepare your way, opening our hearts to the transforming grace of your Word.



*Pre-prepare us, O Lord.*

Lead us in the way of John the Baptist, that our hearts may be open to receive the gift of the One who is to come.

**Prepare us, O Lord.**

Let us hear again the message of Gabriel and ponder anew the miracle of life.

**Prepare us, O Lord.**

Like Mary, let us sing with joy as we give thanks for the coming of the Savior.

**Prepare us, O Lord.**

Fill us, O Lord, with the desire to observe this holy season, so that we might come to the birth of your Son in joy and expectation.

**Prepare us, O Lord.**

*Organ interlude.*

Your will is justice and respect for the dignity of all people.



*Re-mind us, O Lord.*

Your will is empowering love, giving us courage to bear the burdens of life.

**Remind us, O Lord.**

Your will is peace, comfort to the troubled conscience and hope for new beginnings.

**Remind us, O Lord.**

*Organ interlude.*

In all our life, O Lord, enliven our hopes, inspire our dreams, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.



*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Keep us expectant, O Lord, to see new possibilities for life and ministry through the eyes of your Son.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower us to reach out in love to the forsaken, the destitute and the oppressed.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for direction in our community of faith, for the ministry of laity and clergy, and in all authority in the nations of the world.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all humanity, for peace, for good-will among nations and for your spirit of love in our hearts.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill and those in trouble and adversity.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and all who are the vessels of God's grace in every generation.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Organ interlude.*



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.



O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM     *sung by the Choir or Cantor*

*Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
O God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, \*  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you, \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.  
Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Setting: plainsong

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON     *standing; all turn toward the Gospel as the Choir or Cantor sings*

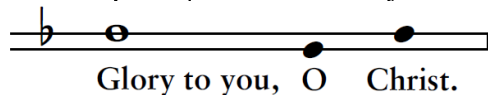
O Oriens,  
splendor lucis aeternae,  
et sol justitiae:  
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris,  
et umbra mortis.

O Morning Star,  
splendor of light eternal,  
and sun of righteousness,  
come, enlighten those who dwell in darkness,  
and the shadow of death.

THE GOSPEL     *The Deacon or Priest intones*

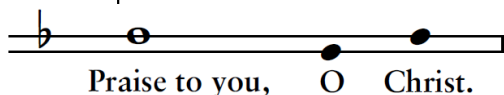
Mark 13:24-37

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



Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

*The Rev. Daniel Simons*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon. The Creed is omitted at this service.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *(ISAIAH 9/2)*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people. In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who patterned the stars and called the sun and moon into being, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying).*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife. Shine the light of hope.

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying).*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

And for what else shall we pray? *(Please speak aloud your own prayers, or offer them silently.)*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

**May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

---

### Supporting the Work of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is fully supported by the contributions of its members and friends.  
Visit the address below or click on the QR code to learn more about  
the opportunities to give and to make a one-time or sustaining gift  
to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place:

*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*



**Thank You!**

---

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Choir at 11am*

### **There shall a star from Jacob come forth**

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*  
*Words: Numbers 24:7 & Psalm 2:9*

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
and a sceptre from Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations.  
How brightly beams the morning star!  
With sudden radiance from afar  
with light and comfort glowing!  
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'er flowing!

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*

The image displays a musical score for a hymn, consisting of two systems. Each system includes a treble and bass staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written in a Gothic-style font and are numbered 1 through 5 for each line. The first system's lyrics are: 1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise; 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven; 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear, 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son, The second system's lyrics are: 1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day." 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies. 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given; 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near. 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.  
Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*This year, our Advent Eucharistic prayer changes weekly to draw from the themes and imagery found in each week's scripture texts.*

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

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. The heavens tremble and the mountains quake at your presence. Although we have forsaken you, you have never forgotten us: you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and  
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

*The Celebrant continues*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He is our grace and peace, the Word that we proclaim, the source of all our strength, and the giver of every good gift. In Christ's body, we have received fellowship with you, our God.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

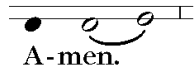
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Keep us awake until the hour of Christ's coming, when the sun and moon and stars will fall from heaven and you will gather up the faithful from the ends of the earth.

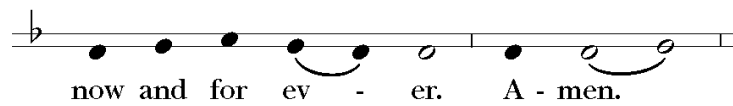
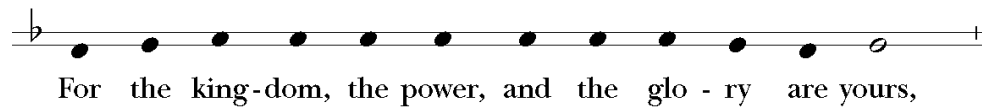
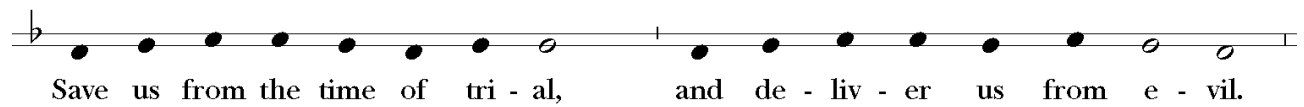
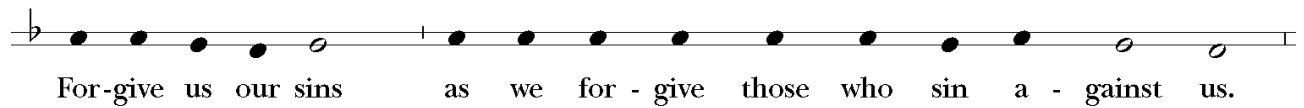
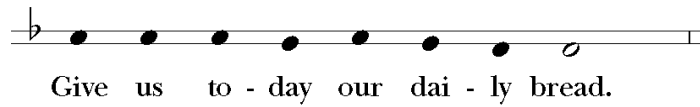
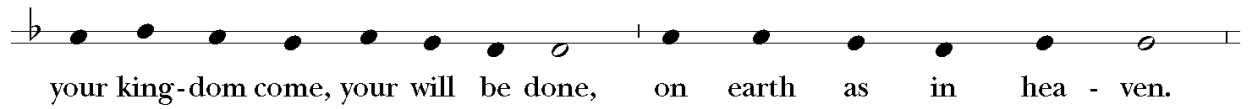
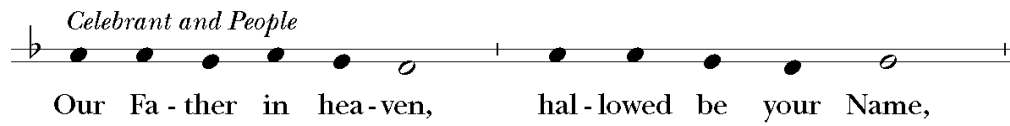
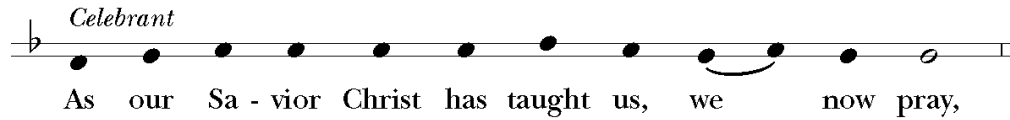
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

*People*



**A-men.**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER



Setting: Ambrosian Chant, adapt. Mason Martens

## THE COMMUNION

*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

God bids us now draw near;

**O Come, Emmanuel, and find us ready to receive you.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)*

*Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.*

*All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:*

*Organ*

The musical score is written for an organ in G major (one sharp). It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo and style are indicated by the organ part. The lyrics are: O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION      *sung by the Choir at 11:00am*

**Creator of the stars of night**

*Conditor alme siderum – Latin Hymn*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION      *standing*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant blesses the People with these or other words of blessing*

The blessing of God Almighty: Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Presence, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

# HYMN IN PROCESSION



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in hope, to watch for the coming of Emmanuel.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

## POSTLUDE

*Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, P.386 - Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

## THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

---

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Molly Cooke *Seminarian*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

*All music in this leaflet is printed with permission from OneLicense.net, License #A-709109*

*Psalms: © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission*