



# Advent

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connect + Inspire + Transform

JANUARY 24, 2024

HOLY EUCHARIST ~ RITE II ~ 4:00 PM

with Healing Service

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

Welcome to Advent Episcopal Church, offering worship of The Episcopal Church to the Northwest Valley. Everyone is welcome to come in person or you can join us on-line on Advent's Facebook page or Advent's YouTube channel. Our worship follows the Holy Eucharist according to the *Book of Common Prayer* with a brief homily. Following the Litany of Healing, healing prayers will be offered for those who desire it. *We hope you enjoy the service!*

All standing, the Celebrant says

BCP 355

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

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

*Celebrant:* 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.*

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

*People* Christ, have mercy.

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 26:9-21

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. "

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had

all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles--to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

*R:* The Word of the Lord. *P:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

*Said in unison*

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*

show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*

your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*

may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, \*

and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

[10:16-22]

*People            Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

*D: The Gospel of the Lord. P: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING

*The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany*

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders:

*You have declared your power among the peoples.*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

*And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life:

*Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray.

*The Celebrant concludes the Prayers with a suitable Collect*

CONFESSION OF NEED

*Instead of the Confession of Sin, the following confession of need may be used. The minister introduces the prayer with these or similar words*

Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

*Silence*

*Minister and People*

Compassionate God,

we confess our weaknesses and our need for your strengthening touch.

We confess that some illnesses stem from our own fault,

while others are beyond our control.

We turn to you, source of life,

and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ

for the gifts of true healing and life in you. Amen.

*Minister*

May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The minister may introduce the laying on of hands and anointing with these or similar words.*

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity.

*The minister then lays hands upon the person and anoints the person. Laypersons with a gift of healing may join the celebrant in extending hands in prayer at a second station. After all have been blessed, the following prayer is said:*

**Celebrant** As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, so may our loving God give you the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. Of God's bounty, may your suffering be relieved, and your spirit, mind, and body restored to grace and peace. May all of us in the frailty of our flesh know God's healing and resurrecting power. *Amen.*

God of all mercy: help us who minister with the sick and dying to remember that though we may appear healthy, we, too, suffer from the universal human condition in a fallen world. Flesh withers, and we must all die to the life we know. Therefore, O God our help, teach us to be aware of our own infirmities, the better to make others understand they are not alone in their illness. Restore us all in the love of the holy and undivided Trinity which is our true health and salvation. *Amen.*

THE PEACE *All standing, as able.*

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

*Maintaining proper social distance, the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Said by all (2 Cor. 9:7)*

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver.

*The people then stand, as able.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

**Celebrant** 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.*

**Celebrant** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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 *Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**Celebrant** 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

**Celebrant** 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 [ ] and all the 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.

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*A period of silence is kept*

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The People come forward single file, one at a time at each communion station to receive the bread and intinct the wine at the nearest chalice station. In place of the usual post-communion prayer, the following prayer is said*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us

forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father ( . ),  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you  
and remain with you always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.



ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
13150 W Spanish Garden Drive  
Sun City West, Arizona 85375  
Phone (623) 584-0350

E-mail: [information@adventaz.org](mailto:information@adventaz.org)  
Website [www.adventaz.org](http://www.adventaz.org)

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, *Bishop of Arizona*  
Mr. Eldon Wold, Jr., *Music Director*  
David Booth, *Sexton*

AFFILIATED CLERGY (*non-stipendiary*)  
Rev. Canon Geoffrey Dibbs (*ret.*)

Rev. Janet Gooltz, D. Min.      Deacon Debbie Greenleaf  
Deacon Meg Lewis              Rev. Janice Watts  
Rev. Beverley Rader, PhD.      Rev. Brian Couvillion

*Acknowledging the people of the land, the Hohokam and other indigenous people as the original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous people who pray for unity and peace today.*