

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 God's kingdom now and forever.
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.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Immortal Lord God, who inhabits eternity, and has brought your servants to the beginning of another year: Forgive our transgressions in the past, bless us this New Year, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH (42:5-9)

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.

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

PSALM 90

¹ Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land or the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

² For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like grass.

³ In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

⁴ The span of our life is seventy years and perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

⁵ So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 6:31-34

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will be drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

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

THE HOMILY

THE REV. DR. BEVERLEY RADER

PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Celebrant introduces with these prayers.

God of all time, help us to enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us to enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us to enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our life, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains.

Let us live each day in the most loving ways.

Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Walk beside us, O Holy One, as we question and welcome, as we challenge and invite, as we discover and understand, as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for the newness waiting us in 2026.

May we, your holy people, walk forward together side by side.

Lord, you make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year and for all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise your glorious name. Amen.

Celebrant: 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: May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

Then, 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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then 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. *AMEN.*

People and Celebrant:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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:

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.

A NEW YEAR BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrow and pain,
but by strengthening us to bear it as it comes;

Not by making our path easy,
but by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
but by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
but by showing us when people and their causes need
us most,
and by making us anxious to be there for help.
God's love, hope, peace and joy to us for the year
ahead.

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

DISMISSAL

Minister: Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of
Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.



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