

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025

**Gathering**  
***God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**‡ Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

*Dennis Leshner*

In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."**  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
**O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**  
—Isaiah 2:2-5, NRSV

## ‡ Invocation

*Dennis Leshar*

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love,  
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.  
Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to  
grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his  
presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through  
Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## ‡ Opening Hymn 145

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## Advent Candle Lighting

*Luke Keeler*

*(Lighting the First & Second Advent Candle)*

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me  
will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

**All: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

Reader: 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, NRSV

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know,  
by the paths they have not known I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into  
level ground. These are the things I will do and I will not forsake  
them.

—Isaiah 42:16, NRSV

## Confessing

***God invites us to be honest with Him***

## Call to Confession

*Dennis Leshar*

The apostle John wrote:

My little children, I am writing these things to you  
so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin,  
we have an advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous;  
and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,  
and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.  
In the strength of this assurance,  
let us confess our sins to God.  
—based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Dennis Leshner*

Lord Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

### **Time for Silent Confession**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Dennis Leshner*

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.”

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.  
In Christ, we are made right with God.

**Thanks be to God!**

—based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation** Each of you must give as you have made up your  
mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God  
loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7, NRSV

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory**

*In the Fullness of Time*  
*Pamela Johnson, Thomas Alberici*

*Bowell / Papa*

### **‡Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

### **‡Prayer of Dedication**

O Mighty One,  
you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your  
name. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our  
possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made

known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

### ‡ **Passing of the Peace**

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You*  
*All: And also with you*

### Proclaiming *God speaks to us through His Word*

### ‡ **Preparation Song**      *Come Light Our Hearts*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths.  
Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our  
salvation; for you we wait all day long. **Amen.**  
—from Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

### **Scripture Reading**      *Philippians 4:7*

*The Peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your  
hearts And minds safe in Christ Jesus.*

### **Sermon**      *“Peace”* *Rev. Ron DiNunzio*

### ‡ **Hymn of Response 133**      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### **Sacrament of Communion**

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

We give you thanks, O God,  
through your beloved servant, Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent in these last times  
as Savior and Redeemer and messenger of your will.  
He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you made all things  
and in whom you take delight.  
You sent him from heaven into the virgin's womb,  
where he was conceived and took flesh.  
Born of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
he was revealed as your Son.  
In fulfillment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering  
to release from suffering those who place their trust in you,  
and so won for you a holy people.  
He freely accepted the death to which he was handed over  
in order to destroy death and to shatter the chains of the evil one;  
to trample underfoot the powers of hell  
and to lead the righteous into light;  
to fix the boundaries of death  
and to manifest the resurrection.  
And so he took bread, gave thanks to you, and said,  
"Take, and eat; this is my body, given for you."  
In the same way he took the cup, saying,  
"This is my blood, shed for you."  
When you do this, do it for the remembrance of me."  
Remembering therefore his death and resurrection,  
we set before you this bread and cup,  
thankful that you have counted us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you as your priestly people.  
We ask you to send your Holy Spirit  
upon the offering of the holy church.  
Gather into one all who share these holy mysteries,  
filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth,

that together we may praise you and give you glory,  
through your servant, Jesus Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Distribution of the Elements**

### **The Words of Jesus.....**

#### **Invitation to the Table**

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you  
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come  
again!**

#### **Responding**

*We respond to God's Word*

#### **!Profession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, In Unison)**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

**Commissioning**

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

‡ **Commission Hymn 144** *How Great Our Joy*

‡ **Benediction & Blessing**

Isaiah says,  
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”  
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
—Romans 15:12-13, NRSV

‡ **Postlude**