



St. Peter's Anglican Church  
Loveland, CO

HOLY EUCHARIST  
*3rd Sunday in Advent*

WELCOME  
IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST



December 17, 2023

## *Prelude*

### **Processional: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art:  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Celebrant:* Surely the Lord is coming soon.

*People:* **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

**All: 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.**

*Deacon/Priest:* Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

- *Matthew 22:37-40*

## **The Kyrie**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy, have mercy.*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray:

## **Collect for the Day**

*Celebrant:* O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(The people may sit.)*

## **The First Lesson: Isaiah 65:17-25**

17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 126**

*In convertendo*

1 When the LORD overturned the captivity of **Zi-on**, \*  
then were / we like **those** who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with **lau-ghter** \*  
and our tongue / with shouts **of joy**.

3 Then they said among the **na-tions**, \*  
"The LORD has done / great things **for them**."

4 Indeed, the LORD has done great things for us al-  
**rea-dy**, \*  
Where-/of we **re-joyce**.  
5 Overturn our captivity, O **LORD**, \*  
as when streams refresh the / de-serts **of** the south.  
6 Those who sow in **tears** \*  
shall / reap with **songs** of joy.  
7 He who goes on his way weeping and bears good  
**seed** \*  
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring / his  
sheaves **with** him.

*All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And / to the **Ho-ly** Ghost  
As it was in the beginning, is **now**,  
and shall be for-/ever **A-men**.*

**The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. 25 Brothers, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. 27 I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, (V. 1-2) – H #20**

Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover,  
And her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved his anger  
He will no more see nor heed.  
She has suffered many a day;  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever springing gladness.

*Deacon or Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Saint John.*

**All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28**

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, (V. 3- 4) H- #20***

Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding, all men to repentance,  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him  
And the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
Make the rougher places plain:  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er the earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That his word is never broken.

***The Sermon***

*Deacon or Priest:* Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

*(Please kneel, stand, or sit as you are able.)*

***Prayers of the People***

*Deacon or Priest:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

*Intercessor:* For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For our Archbishop, Foley Beach; for our Bishop, Bill Atwood; for our Rector, Father Matt Rucker, and for our assisting clergy: Father Bill Easterling, and Deacon Larry Doyle.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others including those we serve in our Outreach Programs, naming especially International Diocese, Samaritan's Purse, and Operation Christmas Child.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our President, Joseph, and our Governor, Jared. Give them a discerning heart and a wise mind to lead and serve as God desires. We also pray for those in our armed forces serving our country both home and abroad.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For all the blessings of this life and for the many reasons we have to give thanksgiving, especially for those celebrating *Birthdays:* Esther Alvarado (12/18), Zinnia Alvarado (12/18), Madeline Rucker (12/21). *Anniversaries:* Al and Elizabeth Schorre (12/23).

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

*(Please offer your prayers, either out loud or silently.)*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*(Additional petitions may be made during this moment of silence.)*

*Deacon or Priest:* Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Deacon or Priest:* Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**All: 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.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

### **The Offering**

*“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”.*

*Ephesians 5:2*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### **Offertory: Magnificat – H #693**

My soul doth magni | fy the Lord

\*and my spirit hath rejoiced | in God my SAvior.

2 For | he hath re | garded

\*the lowliness | of his HANdmaiden.

3 For be | hold, from henceforth

\*all generations shall | call me BLESSed.

4 For he that is mighty hath | magni-fied me;

\*and | holy is his name.

*2<sup>nd</sup> half*

5 And his mercy is on | them that fear him

\*throughout | all · gererAtions.

6 He hath showed | strength · with his | arm;

\*he hath scattered the proud in the imagi | nation of their hearts.

7 He hath put down the mighty | from their seat,  
\*and hath ex | aulted · the | humble · and meek.  
8 He hath filled the hungry with | **GOOD** things;  
\*and the rich he hath | **SENT** | empty · away.  
9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his  
servant | Israel;  
\*as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his  
| seed, for **EVER**.  
Glory be to the Father, and to | the Son,  
\*and | to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall  
be,  
\*world without | **END. Amen.**

### **The Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

**People: And of your own have we given you.**

*1 Chronicles 29:11, 14*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up 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, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*(Proper Preface)* 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 glory 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:

### **The Sanctus**

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

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

*(The people may kneel, stand, or sit.)*

*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness

of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

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 forever. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.***

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*(Please kneel or stand as you are able.)*

#### *Prayer of Humble Access*

**All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

#### *Agnus Dei*

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
Give us your peace, give us your peace.*

*Celebrant:* 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.

*(You may kneel, stand, or sit during Communion.)*

#### *Communion Hymns*

##### *Wait for the Lord – Taizé*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near  
Wait for the Lord. Keep watch, take heart!

##### *O Come, O Come Emmanuel – H #7*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in its ways to go.

*(Refrain)*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

*(Refrain)*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From ev'ry foe deliver them;  
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*(Refrain)*

O come, thou Day-spring from on high,  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh'  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

*(Refrain)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our king of Peace.

*(Refrain)*

##### *The Lord Will Come – H #388*

The Lord will come and not be slow;  
His footsteps cannot err;  
Before him righteousness shall go,  
His royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flow'r,  
Shall bud and blossom then,  
And justice, from her heav'nly bower,  
Look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might;  
This wicked earth redress;  
For thou art he who shalt by right  
The nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made  
Shall come, and all shall frame  
To bow them low before thee, Lord  
And glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great  
By thy strong hand are done;  
Thou in thine everlasting seat  
Remaining God alone.

### ***Exodus XV (The Lord Is My Strength)***

The Lord is my strength and my song  
He's become my salvation.  
He is my God, the God.

*And I shall prepare him my heart  
And I shall prepare him my heart  
And I shall prepare him my heart*

The Lord, he shall reign, for ever and ever,  
The Lord, he shall reign, for ever and ever,  
Amen.

### ***Post Communion Prayer***

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

### ***The Blessing***

*Celebrant:* The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### ***Recessional: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers - H #16***

Rejoice, rejoice, believers!  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising,  
And soon he will draw nigh:  
Up, watch in expectation!  
At midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning;  
Replenish them with oil;  
Look now for your salvation,  
The end of sin and toil.  
The watchers on the mountain  
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go meet him, as he cometh,  
With alleluias clear.

O wise and holy virgins,  
Now raise your voices higher,  
Until in songs of triumph  
Ye meet the angel choir.  
The marriage feast is waiting,  
The gates wide open stand;  
Raise up, ye heirs of glory!  
The Bridegroom is at hand.

Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption,  
And ever be with thee.

### ***The Dismissal***

*Deacon or Priest:* Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love  
and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**