

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

*Pastoral Symphony from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

**Opening Hymn 73** “The King shall come when morning dawns”

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* You come to your people and set them free.

*The Celebrant then says,*

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.*

**Hymn of Praise 56 (vs. 7,8)** “O come, O come, Emmanuel”

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 7:10-16**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

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

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
 how long will you be angered  
 despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn 59 (vs. 1-4) "Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"**

**The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

*Deacon or Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the  
Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until  
she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Deacon/Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                     Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only 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 of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son he 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.

#### **Prayers of the People, Form III**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on... and those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give...and to all the departed eternal rest;

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

We pray for the search for the next Bishop of Southern Ohio,

*May we be led to the one who will lead us to you.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

We thank you, Lord, for the blessings of this life. For...who are celebrating their birthdays this week and for...who are celebrating their wedding anniversary this week.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

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.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*Amen.*

## Peace

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

*People* And also with you.

## Announcements

### Offertory Anthem

*Alleluia*

Leonard Cohen  
arr. Ben Fox and Broder Russo

*The people's gifts of bread and wine, along with the collection, are brought to the Altar. (Please stand.)*

### Doxology

\*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship-Eucharistic Prayer 2. The people's responses are in italics.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*Celebrant*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through

eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

*All voices*

*High voices*

*Low voices*

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus your holy child. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Patrick and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

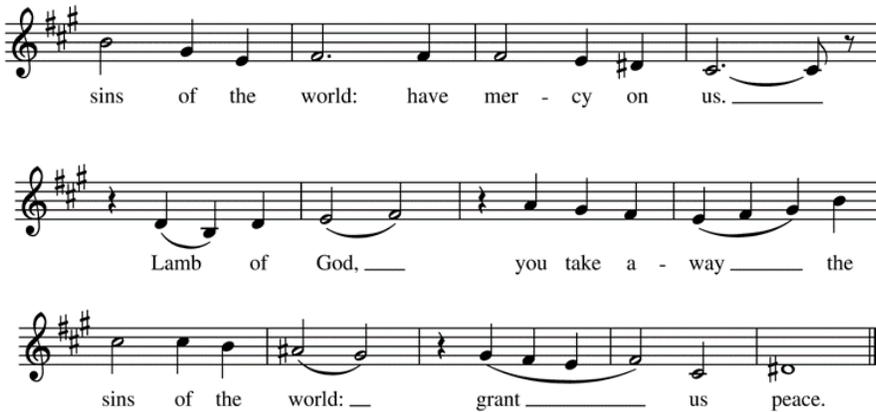
### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Hymn**

*All voices*

Lamb of God, — you take a -  
- way the sins of the world: have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



### **The Invitation**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*  
 The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **Communion Hymn 112 “In the bleak midwinter”**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Presider says*  
 Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

Loving God,  
 we give you thanks  
 for restoring us in your image  
 and nourishing us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.  
 Now send us forth  
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
 that we may proclaim your love to the world  
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### **Eucharistic Visitor Sending**

*Officiant*

We send you out in the Name of God to those who can’t be here today bearing the body of Christ  
 so they may be the body of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

#### **Blessing**

### **Closing Hymn 93 “Angels from the realms of glory”**

#### **Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** *Sarabande in D Minor with Variation* G.F. Handel