

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20

September 21, 2025

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome to Advent Episcopal Church. Our worship service follows the Book of Common Prayer and includes Holy Communion in which all may receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Hymn numbers preceded by the letter "H" are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. The hymn numbers preceded by the letter "L" are found in the red and black hymnal Lift Every Voice and Sing II.
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

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.

Prelude

Hymn H 408

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

All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

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.**

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. S280**
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113 (*8am spoken, 10am sung*)

- ¹ Hallelujah!
Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.
- ² Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.
- ⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
- ⁶ He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
- ⁷ He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.
- ⁸ He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

The Second Lesson 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn H 542

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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 and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He had 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without
 fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader	For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for the clergy of this parish, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	For those in positions of public trust, especially the President of the United States and the Governor of Arizona, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity of every human being, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	For the blessing upon human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	For all First Nations in our diocese and country, for the sick, the persecuted, for refugees and prisoners, that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Leader	Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
People	To you, O Lord our God.
Celebrant	Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, untied in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Deacon	Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
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 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.
People	Amen.
<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All	And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music

All **Let there be peace on earth**
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
 With God as our Father, brothers and sisters are we,
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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 God thanks and praise.**

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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

All	<p>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.</p>	<p>S130</p>
-----	---	--------------------

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."

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:

**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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. The wine will be offered by intinction, which means that you may dip the wafer into the small cup of wine offered by the Deacon. Please do not put your fingers into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, just receive the wafer and return to your seat. The Church teaches that you receive the full Christ in either the bread or wine. There is no requirement to receive both.

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Communicant **Amen.**

Deacon The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Communicant **Amen.**

Hymn L 60

CLOSING PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

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 the 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus, who loves with a wounded heart, be your love for evermore.
May the Lord Jesus, who serves with wounded hands, help you to serve others.
May the Lord Jesus, who walks on wounded feet, walk with you to the end of the road.
Look for the face of the Lord Jesus in everyone you meet
and may everyone you meet, see the face of the Lord Jesus in you.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

H 473

Deacon:

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

Dismissal Response

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude



September 10, 2025

To my Advent friends,

As I prepare to step forward into a new season, my heart is filled with gratitude for the warmth, kindness, and steadfast faith that have defined our journey together. I will carry with me the memories of shared prayers, laughter, and love that you have all showered upon me. Through prayer and with the help of a wonderful counselor, I now see it is time for a fresh start. I have decided to take early retirement and I will no longer be serving as a deacon in the Diocese of Arizona. I will be moving next year to Medford, Oregon to live closer to my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Though my path now leads elsewhere, I leave knowing that the spirit of love and hope will endure within this congregation, lighting the way for all who gather here. May God continue to strengthen you, and may the peace of Christ remain ever present in your lives.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ...Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Wishing you all peace and blessings,

Deacon Debbie Greenleaf