



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.

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 ACTS (1:15-26)

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his homestead become desolate,  
and let there be no one to live in it';  
and

'Let another take his position of  
overseer.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

PSALM 15

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup> Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- <sup>3</sup> There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- <sup>5</sup> He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- <sup>6</sup> He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO  
JOHN (15:1, 6-16)

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

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

THE HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING

*The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People name those for whom they are interceding. A Person appointed then leads the Litany*

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

*We praise you and thank you, O Lord.*

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness this broken world, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Hear us, O Lord of life:

*Heal us, and make us whole.*

*Celebrant* Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and console all those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. Be present to them in their weakness and restore them to health that they may praise your holy Name and live in the fullness of your love and truth. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord. **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.*

*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 for ever 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.

THE BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you  
and into our doors once again;

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

DISMISSAL

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

*People:* Thanks be to God.



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