

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 and Everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your faithful martyr Manche Masemola: Grant to us your servants, a like faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in her triumph may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH (1:8-18)

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then

refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
Where you lodge, I will lodge;

your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

**PSALM 118:8–14**

<sup>8</sup> It is better to rely on the Lord \*  
than to put any trust in flesh.

<sup>9</sup> It is better to rely on the Lord \*  
than to put any trust in rulers.

<sup>10</sup> All the ungodly encompass me; \*  
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

<sup>11</sup> They hem me in, they hem me in on every side; \*  
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

<sup>12</sup> They swarm about me like bees;  
they blaze like a fire of thorns; \*  
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

<sup>13</sup> I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, \*  
but the Lord came to my help.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO  
MATTHEW (19:13-15)

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Little children were being brought to Jesus in order that  
he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples  
spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said,  
“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven  
belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his  
way.

C: 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 audibly 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 whole-  
ness 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.*

*Maintaining proper social distance, 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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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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