

GRACE CHURCH
IN NEWARK

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

HIGH MASS AT 10:30 AM

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Prelude – Wachet Auf, BWV 140 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Ethan Chow, Organ Scholar

Hymn 57 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Please stand at the sound of the bells and join in singing the hymn, which can be found in the blue hymnal. After the procession, the Priest sprinkles the people with holy water as a sign of their baptism.

Introit *Graduale Romanum*

The Cantor sings the Antiphon. The Priest kisses and censes the altar with frankincense and myrrh, the gifts of the Magi at Jesus's birth, in honor of Christ's sacrifice, and presence among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Ad te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: necque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame. *Ps. 25*

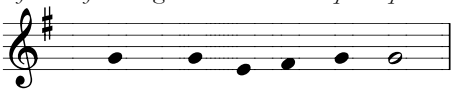
The Great Litany in Procession

Please stand at the sound of the bells. During the Litany, pray for

- **The Church:** *Sarah Mullally,* Archbishop of Canterbury, *Sean Rowe* our Primate, *Carlye Hughes* our Bishop, and *Leo & Bartholomew,* primates of the other branches of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
- **The Nation & World:** *Donald*, President, Members of Congress, Justices of the Supreme Court, *Mikie*, Governor, and *Ras*, Mayor.
- **Parish Prayer List:** *Hannah Flemmings, Ottie Blamah-Sah,* and *Andre Murray*, and our friends and family, *Allen Henry Breton*, son of Henry and Beatrice Breton, and *Debbie Hoglund.*
- **Birthdays:** *Joseph Elisée (11/20), Doug Brunner (11/23), Madison Pigott (11/23), Rashanda Cummings (11/24), Carol Anne Davis (11/28), Kylie Garland (11/28), Brielle Ferguson-Louis (12/2), Darius Garland (12/4), Joan Knowles (12/4),* and *Marquita Ferguson (12/5).*
- **Departed:** *Joanne Murray (10/1/26),* mother of Andre, *Louie Crew Clay (11/27/19), Rhonda Dover (11/28/21), Elaine Davis (11/28/22), Victoria Richardson (11/29/19),* and *Monica McFadzean (11/29/25),* mother of Mark.

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

After the following invocations the People respond

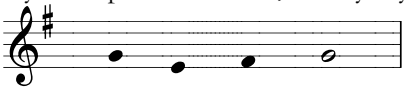


O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy upon us.*

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful, *Have mercy upon us.*

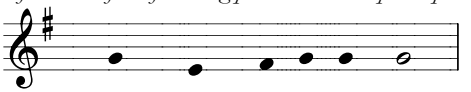
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, *Have mercy upon us.*

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us for ever.



From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation, *Spare us, good Lord.*

After each of the following petitions the People respond



From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

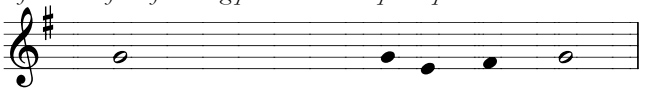
By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of thy Holy Ghost, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, *Good Lord, deliver us.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

After each of the following petitions the People respond



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

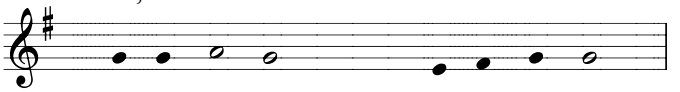
That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

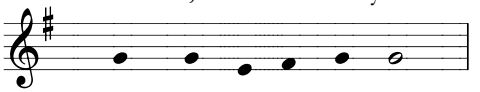
That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



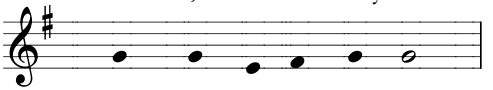
People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,



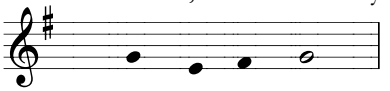
People Have mer- cy up- on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,



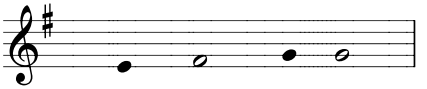
People Have mer- cy up- on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,



People Grant us thy peace.

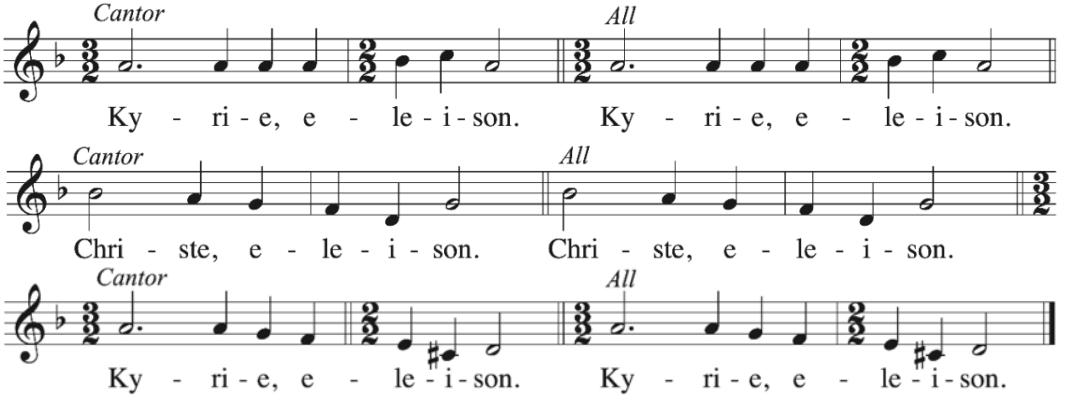
O Christ, hear us.



People O Christ, hear us.

Kyrie – Mass of the Emmanuel James McGregor (1930-2022)

Please remain standing and join in singing the Kyrie. *Please repeat each petition after the Cantor.*



Collect of the Day

Please sing "Amen" on a monotone throughout the service unless otherwise indicated. This prayer sets the theme for the day, reflected in the Gregorian Chant, as well as the readings and post-communion prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9a

Please be seated for the Readings and the Psalm.

Reader A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is

no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual – Psalm 80:1–7 Anglican Chant by H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

The Cantor sings the Gradual Psalm.

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

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

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

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

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

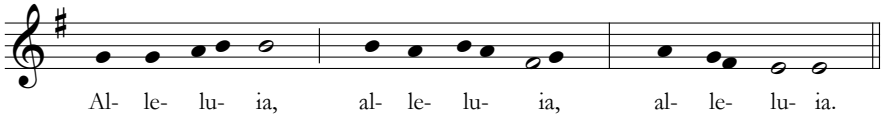
Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes. To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Please stand. The Cantor sings the Alleluia, then all repeat.

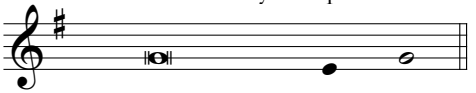


Cantor Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. *All repeat Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Please remain standing for the Gospel, which is censed with frankincense and myrrh as a way of giving honor to the ancient account of the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord. It is customary to make three small signs of the cross with one's thumb on the forehead, lips, and heart, asking God for the Gospel to be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

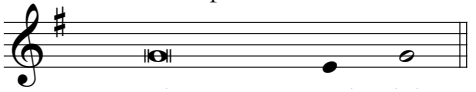
Priest The ✠✠✠ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.



People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.



People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily Peter Woolley Ph.D., Licensed Lay Preacher

Please be seated when the homilist says "✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Nicene Creed

Please stand for the Creed. The music can be found inside the back cover of the blue hymnal.

Confession of Sin

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel or bow profoundly for the Confession and say

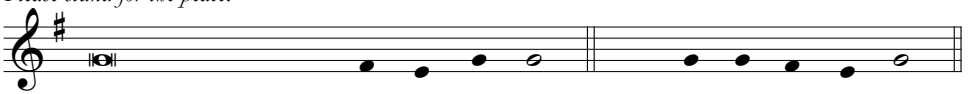
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son 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 proclaims God's absolution of sin saying

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.*

The Peace

Please stand for the peace.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Please be seated during the preparation of the Altar, stand for the hymn, then stand or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer. All baptized Christians of any tradition are welcome to receive the Blessed Sacrament; Speak to the priest to discuss baptism. Please receive the bread on the tongue or folded hands with palms up. Wine may be sipped, but dipping bread is not allowed. If you do not receive the Sacrament, you are welcome to the altar rail for a blessing, indicating by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need the Blessed Sacrament brought to your pew, please signal an usher.

Offertory Antiphon *Graduale Romanum*

The Cantor sings the Offertory Antiphon.

Ad te Domine levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam: necque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.

Unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O my God, I trust in you, let me not be put to shame; do not allow my enemies to laugh at me; for none of those who are awaiting you will be disappointed. *Psalm 25:1-3*

Offertory Anthem– E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come Paul O. Manz (1919-2009)

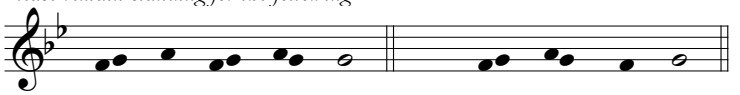
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was, and is, and is to come. Sing Holy, Holy Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Hymn 61 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

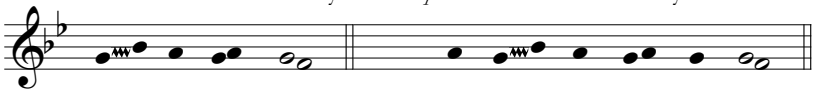
Please stand and join in singing the hymn.

Eucharistic Prayer B *Sanctus* – Mass of the Emmanuel, James McGregor (1930-2022)

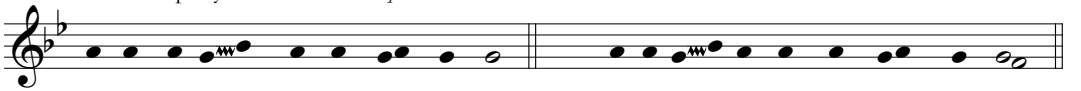
Please remain standing for the following.



Priest The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.

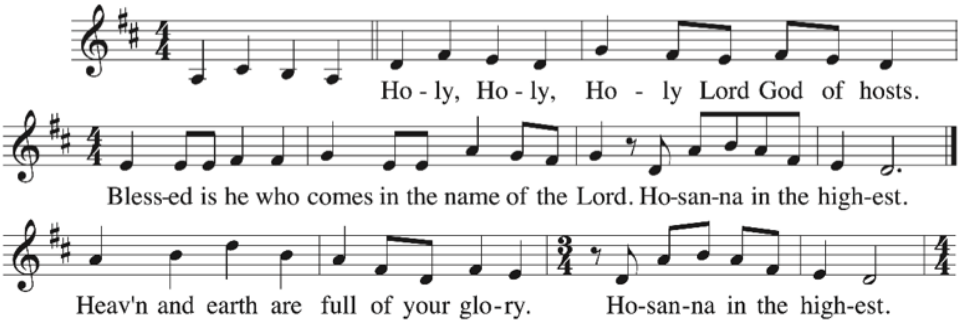


Priest Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.



Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;
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 triumph 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:

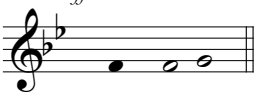


Please kneel or remain standing as the Priest continues.

We give thanks to you, O God,
for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation;
in the calling of Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,

out of death into life.
On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him,
being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ,
and bring us to that heavenly country where,
with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints,
we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
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.

Please affirm the consecration of the Bread & Wine as the Body & Blood of Christ by exclaiming the Great Amen.

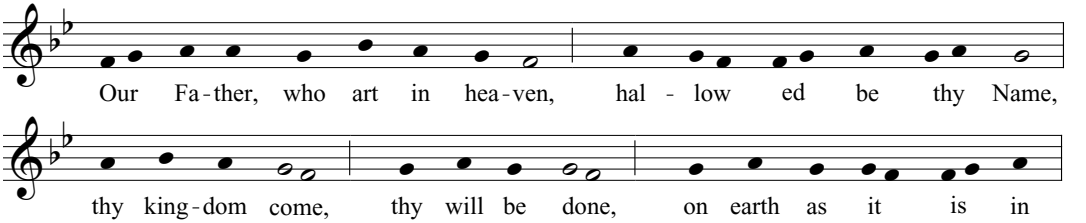


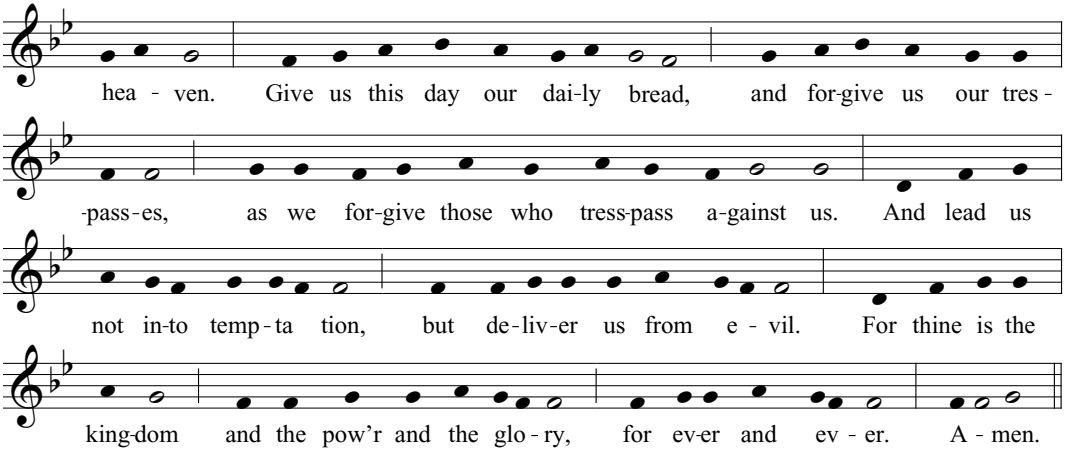
The Lord's Prayer

The Priest begins

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

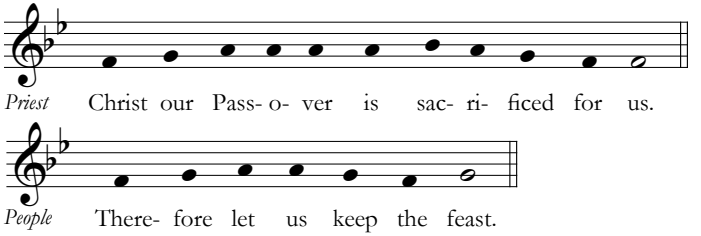
Please continue





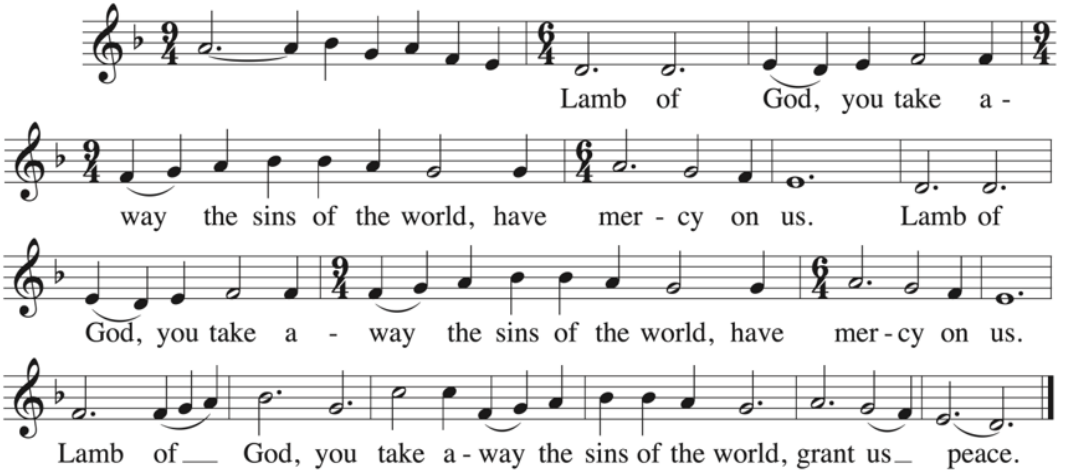
The Fraction

The Priest breaks the bread.



Agnus Dei– Mass of the Emmanuel James McGregor (1930-2022)

Please join the Cantor in singing the Agnus Dei. *An English translation is found on page 337 of the red BCP.*



Invitation to Receive the Blessed Sacrament

Please come forward immediately after the following invitation in order to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

✠ Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The people may privately say the Prayer of Humble Access for preparation to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion for all who worship remotely or do not wish to receive the Blessed Sacrament

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Communion Antiphon *Graduale Romanum*

The Cantor sings the Communion Antiphon.

Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. *Psalm 85:13*

Hymn 73 The King shall come when morning dawns

Please stand, join in the singing of the hymn, and remain standing until the dismissal.

Postcommunion Prayer

After any remaining Sacrament has been consumed and the Altar has been cleared the Priest says

Grant, O merciful Lord: that through these holy mysteries which we have received we may learn to love things heavenly: and, even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those things which shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Advent Blessing

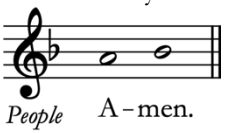
The Priest offers a blessing, with the people responding after every phrase.

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.



Hymn 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Postlude – Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Ethan Chow, Organ Scholar

GRACE NOTES

Welcome to our visitors this morning. We hope you will fill out a visitor's card located in your pew. All are welcome to join us at Coffee Hour upstairs in the Parish House after Mass. We are very glad to have new families worshipping with us! If you are in need of childcare, ask an usher.
Online giving is easy at bit.ly/GraceOnlineGiving or Venmo (@GraceNewark)

STEWARDSHIP 2027: A LETTER FROM FATHER BATES

"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8

Scripture is full of stories of leadership transitions among God's people: Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, David to Solomon, and Paul to Timothy. These are all larger-than-life figures in our faith, but their stories tell us something about leadership transitions generally, and what God calls us to during this time.

There are some common themes in all these stories. Scripture shows us again and again that the people of God belong to God and not any one leader, each of whom has a particular responsibility during a particular season. Transitions are a normal part of the life of God's people, and moving through them calls for courage and faith in his presence. Above all, these stories remind us that God is faithful, that he goes before his people, continuing to lead his people into the future, as expressed in the passage from Deuteronomy above.

I encourage you to remain faithful in worship, in prayer, in service, and in generosity, trusting the God who has sustained this parish in the past to continue to lead and sustain it in the future. This will not merely be a year of waiting until the next leader arrives, but a year in which God is calling you to embrace the continuing life and mission of the Church, faithfully preserving and strengthening what has been entrusted to you for those who will come after you.

I invite you to join me in making your pledge for the coming year by completing a pledge card online right now. Your pledges will be blessed after Thanksgiving, on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2026. The online pledge card can be found at https://bit.ly/GraceChurchPledge2027 or by using the QR code below.

I am deeply grateful for the years we have shared together, and I have every confidence that God has much still in store for Grace Church in Newark. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity during this time!

Faithfully,
Fr. Bates

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged!

Judith Alexander-Edwards
Rhoda Ansah
Pat Arthur
J. Brent Bates
Ottie Blamah-Sah
Henry & Beatrice Breton
Dolores Brown
Tracy Cummings
James Drayton
Monique Elisée
Matthew Greene
J. Carr Holland
Rosemary & Tony Kearney
Winifred Langevine
Mike Lindstrom
Jewel Lowe
Egan Pemberton
Darriea Pigott
Luis Sanchez
Jason Scully
Jose Torres
Daphine Turner
Peter Woolley

WEEKDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

There will be no weekday services on Tuesday, December 1. Weekday services will resume on Wednesday, December 2.

INTERMENT FOR JOANNE MURRAY

Joanne Murray's remains will be interred in the parish's columbarium on Sunday, December 6 immediately after the High Mass. Anyone who would like to join us for the brief service should meet in the All Saints' Chapel.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

We are now receiving donations Christmas, for poinsettias, and additional choir singers. Please mark your donation for Christmas and your name will be included here.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

The greening of the church will happen on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. We will need people to help with arranging the poinsettias, setting up the Creche, and to climb on ladders to hang the wreaths.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

RECTOR'S DEPARTURE

After fifteen years of ministry at Grace Church, Father Bates has accepted a call to serve as the next Rector of St. Clement's Church in Philadelphia. Fr. Bates's last Sunday with Grace Church will be December 20, 2026, the Fourth Sunday of Advent. At the 10:30 a.m. High Mass that day, Canon

Wright will preside at a rite of leave-taking, followed by a reception. Fr. Bates will celebrate his final Mass with Grace Church on Christmas Day, December 25, at 10:30 a.m. Further information regarding the reception and arrangements for Fr. Bates's departure will be forthcoming.

INTERIM AND SEARCH

The Wardens and Vestry are working with the Diocese of Newark to make arrangements for the interim period and the eventual search for Grace Church's next rector. More information about the interim leadership and the search process will be shared with the parish as plans develop.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Coffee hour hosts are needed for upcoming months. Consider signing up to bring a small dish (coffee cake, Dunkin Donuts, bagels, etc.) for us to share during this time of fellowship. Friends can team up to cook or bring a dish as well. The sign-up sheet is located in the Parish Hall. *If you sign up to bring a dish, please bring your food between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. This allows the Coffee Hour coordinator to set up before the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please Note: Food arriving after 10:00 a.m. will need to be placed and set up by the person bring it. Thank you for helping us keep Coffee Hour running smoothly!*

CHORISTERS

Chorister rehearsals continue each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the program year unless otherwise scheduled. Mass performances are approximately twice per month as scheduled, with the first being Sunday, September 27. Please continue to help recruit new children to the program. *The program is tuition free and the Choristers receive a stipend.* For more information contact Director Emmanuel Bonilla-Acosta at ebacosta@gracechurchinnewark.org.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Bible study on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. has resumed. Please speak with Michael Banks, Ministry Fellow, for details and materials (mtbanks@gracechurchinnewark.org).

950 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102
GraceChurchinNewark.org ❧ 973-623-1733
The Rev. Fr. J. Brent Bates, PhD, *Rector*
Michael Banks, *Ministry Fellow*
Dr. John A. Romeri, AAGO, ChM, *Organist*
Emmanuel Bonilla-Acosta, *Director of Choristers*
Rachel Nicastro, *Cantor*
Ethan Chow, *Organ Scholar*
Egan Pemberton, *Postulant for the Priesthood*
Andre Murray & Tracy Cummings, *Wardens*
Sam Armah, Rosemary Kearney, Darriea Pigott, *Vestry Class of 2027*
Comfort Abogan, Shevon Armstrong, Jason Scully, *Vestry Class of 2028*
Judith Alexander-Edwards, Rhoda Ansah, Angelina Kearney, *Vestry Class of 2029*