Holy Eucharist

Voluntary *(Please refer to the insert for title and composer.)*

Opening Hymn *(please see insert for Hymn #)*

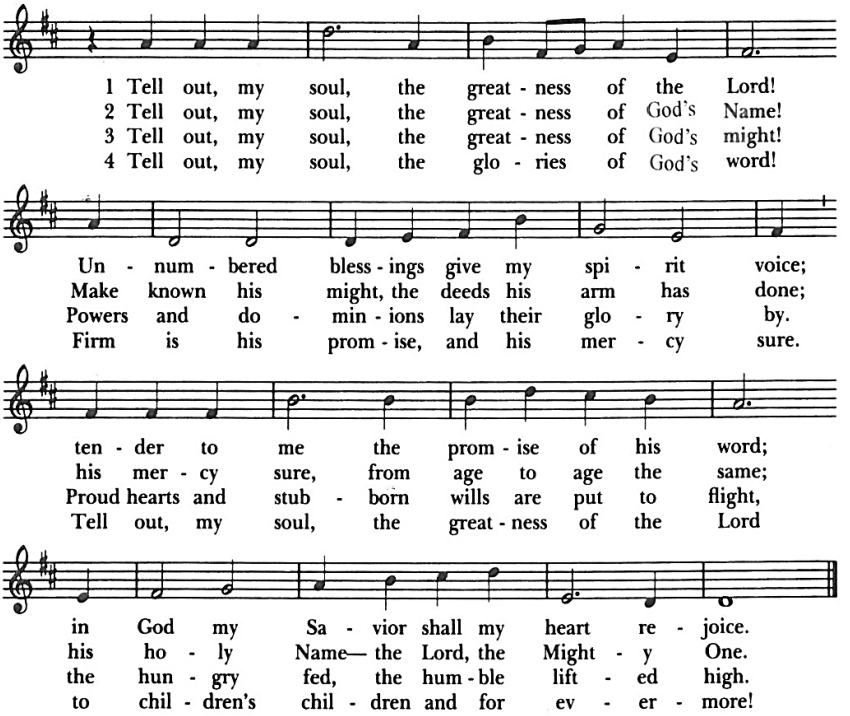
Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed are you, God of grace and hope,
People: **you come to your people and set us free.**

Song of Praise *(Please refer to the insert for verses.)* *Woodlands*

Hymn 438 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!



Lighting of the Advent Candle(s) *Luke 1:78,79*

Leader: In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Lighting the candle(s).

Leader: The light of Christ is coming into the world.
People: **And darkness will never overcome it.**

The Collect of the Season *(For the Collect of the Day, see insert.)*
Presider: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Let us pray.

Presider: Merciful God of peace, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope: Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and proclaim your justice in all the world. **Amen**.

Please refer to the insert for today's scripture readings.
The First Lesson
The Psalm
The Gospel
The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith, *(Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.)*

The Nicene Creed
Presider: Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

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:
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, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father. **
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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

For our deepest and most holy longings we pray:
Hear us, O God.

For the courage of the Church,
Renew us as people of service and compassion.

Bless our bishops, Miguelina, and Sean; our rector, Nina; and our siblings in Christ in the Campus of Downtown Pittsfield Churches.

For this planet, our home:
Renew our will to be healers of creation.

For the peace of the world,
And the wellbeing of all God's people.

For the reconciliation of the nation,
Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace.

For those in need of our prayers:
(Please refer to the insert; add your own intercessions)

For all who wander, who hunger, who suffer:
May we embody your love and care.

For those who have died:
(Please refer to the insert; add your own intercessions)

Receive them into the arms of your mercy.
May we comfort those who mourn.

For the blessings of our lives:
(Please add your thanksgivings.)

Bless those we love and all creation with your goodness,
and renew our trust in your love.

Concluding Collect *(The Presider may use one of the following.)*
O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**.

O God, our rock and refuge: Keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray faithfully to you and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Confession

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,
All: **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 our Savior 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 Absolution

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

The Peace

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you,
People: **and also with you.**
Please greet one another with a sign of peace, as you are comfortable.

Choral Anthem (see insert for details)

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

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

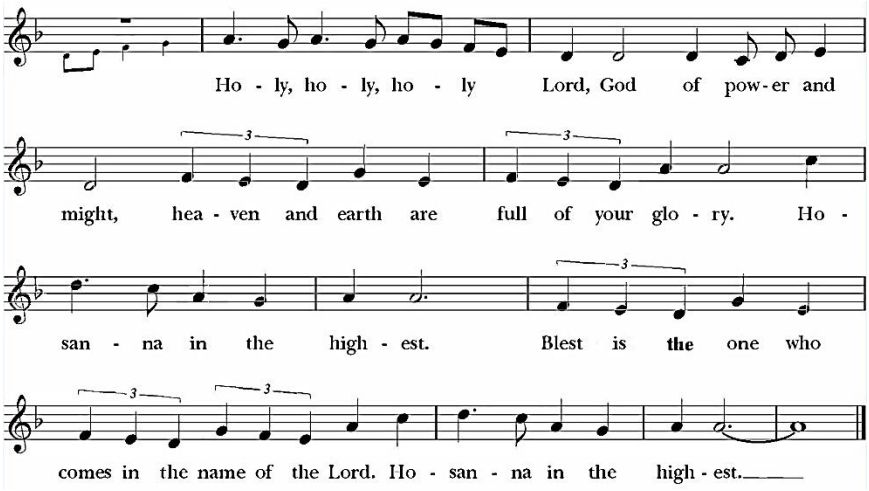
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs of everlasting life; that when Christ 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:

Sanctus ***S129*** "Holy, holy, holy Lord" Robert Powell



Sanctus *(If spoken)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,

through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

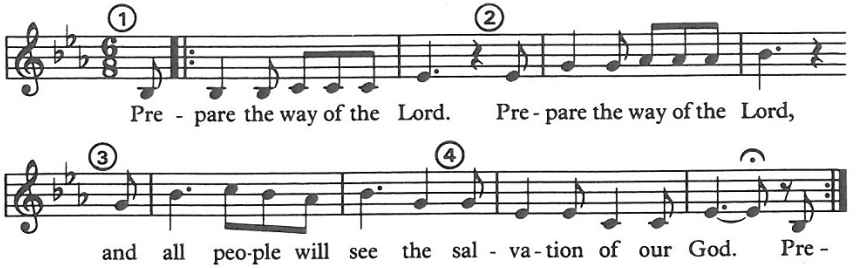
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction *(if spoken)*
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Fraction Hymn "Prepare the way of the Lord"

Jacques Berthier/Taizé Community

sung 3 times – 1. Cantor; 2&3 All)



The Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion
Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table.
Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Specific information about how to receive communion is found on back page of weekly insert. (Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Music at Communion: *(see insert for detail)*

Post Communion Prayer, Form I *(Please stand if it is comfortable.)*
Presider: Let us pray.
All: **Eternal God,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of 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 Savior. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer, Form II *(Please stand if it is comfortable.)*

Presider: Let us pray:

All: **Holy One,**
you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of this world's anger and sorrow;
give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts,
in Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing, Form I *(Presider may choose one of these or another.)*
Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

The Blessing, Form II
My friends, life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future
than the mistakes of our past.

And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn *(Please refer to the insert for hymn #.)*

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
Alleluia, alleluia.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *(Please refer to the insert for title and composer.)*

Liturgical Resources for Advent 2026

Cover Text
Text is from Philippians 4:5b-6 (Order of St. Helena's Version)

Opening Acclamation
Adapted from *Common Worship, Services and Prayers for The Church of England.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle(s)
Drawn from the text of Luke 1:78,79

The Collects
The Collect of the Season is drawn from *Daily Prayers for All Seasons.* The Collects of the Day, found in the inserts, are assigned in the lectionary.

The Affirmation of Faith/Creed
This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople (325 and 381CE respectively) and once again aligning ourselves with our brothers and sisters in the

Orthodox Church. This version was approved for use in worship by The Episcopal Church in 1997, and published in *Enriching Our Worship I.*

Prayers of the People
Inspired by a form in *Daily Prayers for All Seasons*, and then heavily adapted to be appropriately functional for congregational use on a Sunday.

Concluding Collects for the Prayers of the People:
Form I is from the *Book of Common Prayer, 1979,* p. 395.
Form II is from the *Order of St. Helena's Breviary.*

The Confession of Sin
From *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*, p. 360.

The Absolution and **Peace**
From *Enriching Our Worship*, p. 56

The Eucharistic Prayer
This is Prayer B, Expansive Language version, adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*. (Approved at General Convention 79 in 2018, for trial usage.)

Post Communion Prayer
Form I, from the *BCP 1979*, Expansive Language version.
Form II is adapted from *Common Worship, Services and Prayers for The Church of England, Additional Eucharistic Prayers.*

The Blessings
Blessing I is paraphrased from I Thessalonians 5, and commonly used across the Anglican Communion; with the Trinitarian blessing as phrased by the Order of St. Helena.

Blessing II is one-part Celtic blessing, one-part from my friend The Rev. Ben Nelson (his father actually, also The Rev. Nelson) and one third Trinitarian blessing as phrased by the *Order of St. Helena. Put together, creating my favorite blessing!*