

# SAINT JOHN'S

## The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

### The First Sunday of Advent – Dec. 1, 2024

Welcome to Saint John's! Please visit our website at [RedDoors.com](http://RedDoors.com) for more information. Greeters are available for questions or requests. Regarding our worship today, we are following the Book of Common Prayer, Rite II. The blue hymnal is for hymns with simple numbers, hymns from LEVAS, the red and black hymnal, are noted with an 'L'. Italics and all uppercase are directions or section notes; while the congregation is invited to read aloud all bolded sections and to sing all the hymns with fearless joy!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.'  
C. Callahan

#### THE TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

HYMN 58 'Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending'

#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

#### A COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

#### THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 Congregation sits.*

THE FIRST READING JEREMIAH 33:14-16

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the

house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

*Ad te, Domine, lavavi*

The reading from the Psalter appointed for today is a portion of Psalm 25. We will say the psalm responsively by verse.

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

**4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

**6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**8 He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.**

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

THE SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**The Word of the Lord**

Thanks be to God.

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE DOXOLOGY – HYMN 380 V. 3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

SERMON: The Rev. Evelyn Wheeler

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## THE NICENE CREED

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR ADVENT I

*Celebrant:*

In a time of distress among nations, when people faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world: Hear the prayers of your people as we raise our heads to behold our redemption that is drawing near, as we pray: Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

*Leader:* To you, O Gracious One, we lift up our souls: Restore whatever is lacking in our faith, that your Church may increase and abound in love for one another and for all, remaining alert at all times to see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

O Holy One, whose reign casts away the works of darkness: Cover the leaders of the world with the armor of light and come quickly to let your righteous Branch spring up to execute justice and righteousness in all the earth.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

Source of refuge and hope for all who suffer: Let none who look to you be put to shame; though the powers of the heavens may be shaken, fulfill the promise you have made on behalf of everyone who suffers throughout the world.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

For the leaders of our nation, especially Joseph our President, Donald our President Elect, and the leaders of all nations; and all those who hold public office.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

For all who hold authority in your Church, especially Sean, Jeffrey, and Laura our bishops, that they may know you and humbly teach in your light;

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love,**

**for they are from everlasting.**

Hear our prayers for everyone in need, especially those on our parish prayer list. We thank you for your grace and presence at work among us. Come in your glory, O Christ, and take to yourself those who have died, that they may rise to the life immortal.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

For those who celebrate birthdays, especially Larry Espinet, and those who celebrate anniversaries.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Holy and Almighty One, as we see the foreboding signs in our times, teach us that your reign is near; guard our hearts so they may not be weighed down with the worries of this life but strengthened in holiness, that we may be blameless before you, our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints, in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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.**

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.

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Community exchanges a sign of peace.*

THE OFFERTORY

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what

you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*Hebrews 13:15, 16*

HYMN 73 v 1,2,4,5 'The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns'

*A collection is taken for the work of the Church.*

AT THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

All things come of Thee, O Lord.

**And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people remain standing.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

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.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

THE SANCTUS: S130

**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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen**

And now, 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 AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The Priest breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

THE ACT OF RECEPTION

**Gracious God, in union with the faithful across the Church, we thank you for gathering us as your people.**

**We present ourselves to You, along with all who cannot gather around the altar at this time, believing and trusting in Your real presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We love you above all things; our soul longs for you. And so, we call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table. If we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we still implore you to come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you with all the affection of our soul. May this spiritual Communion be for us an armor of faith and shield of goodwill and liberation. Sustain us, heal us, and encourage us, with your Holy Spirit until we meet again as one Church and one Body. We ask this for your love. Amen.**

HYMN L13

'My Lord, What a Morning'

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE ADVENT BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

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 coming be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

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

HYMN 59 v 1,2,4,5

'Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding'

THE DISMISSAL

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Wachet Auf! Rift Uns Die Stimme. (Wake, Awake The Voices Cry To Us)*' Karl H. G. Davin

*Our Worship is over and our service has only begun!*