

✠ ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Hymn	343
Invocation	184
Confession & Absolution	184

SERVICE OF THE WORD

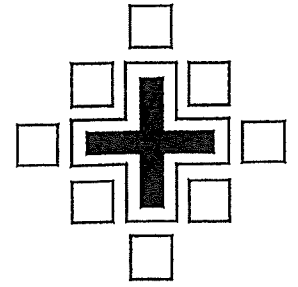
Introit	(See Insert)
Kyrie	186
Salutation and Collect	187
Old Testament	190
Gradual	(See Insert)
Epistle	190
Alleluia (alternate).	190
Holy Gospel.....	190
Nicene Creed	190
Hymn of the Day ...	344
Sermon	
Offertory	192
Offering	
Prayer of the Church	193

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion Liturgy	194
Distribution	334, 337, 618
Nunc Dimittis	199
Thanksgiving	200
Salutation & Benedicamus	201
Benediction.....	202
Hymn	352

Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021



INTROIT *Ps. 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*

O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.*

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

But my people did not listen | to my voice;*

Israel would not sub- | mit to me.

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*

that Israel would walk | in my ways!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

DAILY READINGS

December 5: Is. 11:1–12:6; 2 Peter 2:1–22; **6:** Is. 14:1–23; 2 Peter 3:1–18; **7:** Is. 24:1–13; 1 John 1:1–2:14; **8:** Is. 24:14–25:12; 1 John 2:15–29; **9:** Is. 26:1–19; 1 John 3:1–24; **10:** Is. 26:20–27:13; 1 John 4:1–21; **11:** Is. 28:14–29; 1 John 5:1–21.

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Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-14

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."