

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Detroit, Michigan

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay
Dean-elect

The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan

November 30, 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

An Advent Procession, 4:00 p.m.

with the Cathedral Choir



Welcome! Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

*Please silence all electronic devices.
This service is also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.*

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

The Advent Procession is a service of journeys. In the literal sense, it involves the journey of the choir and ministers as they process from the west end of the cathedral to the east, and from darkness into light. It is also a representation of our journey into the season of Advent and therefore into a new church year, which begins today. Through the appointed readings and music, it is a journey through sacred history into the promised future.

The music and scripture of today's service rest on four themes. The first is hope: the longing of people for a light in the darkness and the salvation of God. The second is the messengers, the prophets who assure God's people, in both the Old and New Testaments, that their hope will be fulfilled. The third theme is the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, God's great act of love and answer to his people's hope. The fourth and final theme is the manifestation of Christ to all people. Advent is concerned not only with Christ's first coming, which we anticipate during this season and celebrate at Christmas, but with Christ's second coming at the end of time. Even as we revisit the voices and events of thousand years ago, we turn our faces to the future and to the perfect peace and joy God has promised us.

The Advent Procession is not a concert, but an open door that leads into a season of preparation and expectation. Instead of hurrying prematurely toward a holiday that has gained cultural meanings largely unrelated to the Feast of the Incarnation, we make our way from one end of the cathedral to the other as we wish make our way from one end of Advent to the other: with purpose, but without haste. We take the time to listen to the voices of ages past in music and scripture, to remember who and what it is we are preparing for: the coming of God into our own world, our own hearts, our own lives—in ages past, in the present day, and in the world to come.

- Mary Grahame Hunter

AN ADVENT PROCESSION

Prior to the service, the following music is played at the Great Organ.

Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sleepers wake! a voice is calling

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

Camil VanHulse (1897-1988)

At the bell, please stand. From the West End the Choir sings

THE MATIN RESPNSORY

V I look from afar:

R And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V Go ye out to meet him and say:

R Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

R Go ye out to meet him and say:

V Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep.

R Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come.

R To reign over thy people Israel.

V Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V Go ye out to meet him and say:

R Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

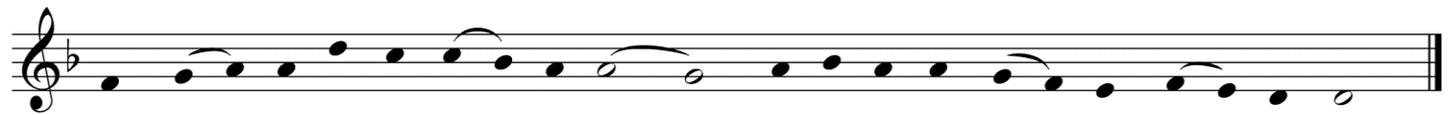
Words Isaiah; the Psalms

Music plainsong, adapted from Giovanni da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

The Advent Prose (Rorate caeli) is then begun, and the Procession moves to the Great Crossing.

THE ADVENT PROSE

The Congregation sings the following refrain as directed, in alternation with the Cantor.



Drop down_ O heav-ens from_ a- bove,___ and let the skies pour_ down right - eous-ness.

Be not exceedingly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity for ever; thy holy cities have become a wilderness, Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. **Refrain**

We have all become like one who is unclean; we all do fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. For thou hast hid thy face from us and has delivered us into the hand of our iniquities. **Refrain**

You are my witnesses saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me. I, I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior; there is none who can deliver from my hand. **Refrain**

Comfort, comfort my people, my salvation will not tarry; I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud. Fear not, for I have redeemed you; for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. **Refrain**

Words and Music Officia Propria, Paris, 1673, adapted by David Bartlett (1947-2023)

The Officiant continues with
THE BIDDING PRAYER

IN the name of God, who hast delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us: how that when we were far off, God met us in the Divine Child and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate anew this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be changed with Christ's life; that we may bear witness to his glory, and bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his Name.

Finally, let us remember before God those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one numbers, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All say together

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.

Officiant

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

All sing as the Procession moves to the Great Choir

HYMN *The congregation joins at verse 2.*



1 Come, thou Re - deem - er of the earth, and man - i -
2 Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, but of the
3 From God the Fath - er he pro - ceeds, to God the
4 O eq - ual to thy Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy
5 All laud to God the Fa - ther be, all praise e -



1 fest thy vir - gin birth: Let ev - ery age a - dor - ing
2 Spi - rit, thou art still the Word of God in flesh ar -
3 Fa - ther back he speeds; his course he runs to death and
4 flesh - ly man - tle now; the weak - ness of our mor - tal
5 ter - nal Son, to thee: All glo - ry, as is ev - er



1 fall; such birth be - fits the God of all.
2 rayed, the pro - mised fruit to man dis - played.
3 hell, re - turn - ing on God's throne to dwell.
4 state with death - less might in - vig - or - ate.
5 meet, to God the Ho - ly Par - a - clete.

Words St. Ambrose (340-397), tr.

Music *Puer nobis*, 15th century, adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

THE ADVENT HOPE

LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The prophet foretells the advent of a righteous King

read by Bren O'Connor

ANTHEM

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 savèd 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!

Words Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz (1919-2008)

Music Paul Manz (1919-2009)

LESSON

Saint Matthew 24:36-44
The coming of the kingdom of God.
read by Rianna Baker

ANTHEM

THE Lord will surely come and not delay, and He will bring to light the things hidden in darkness. The Lord will surely come and will manifest Himself to all nations. Therefore, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God, without blemish. *Kyrie eleison.*

Words Philippians 2 and the Benedictus antiphon for Advent IV
Music Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Please stand as you are able.

V Now is the time to wake out of sleep.
R For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All sing
HYMN

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound - ing, "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil-dren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words Latin, 6th century; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
Music Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); descant by Alan Gray (1855-1935)

Please be seated.

THE MESSENGERS

LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-10

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

read by Beck Caterina

ANTHEM

O Radiant Dawn,
Splendor of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,
“The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.”

Words *O Oriens*, from the Great ‘O’ antiphons

Music James MacMillan (b. 1959)

LESSON

Saint Mark 1:1-8

The calling of the Lord’s chosen servant.

read by John O’Brien

ANTHEM

CHRI^ST, he requires still wheresoe’er he comes to feed or lodge,
to have the best of rooms:
Give him the choice;
Grant him the nobler part of all the house:
The best of all’s the heart.

Words Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Music Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Please stand as you are able.

V In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

R **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

MERCIFUL GOD, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All sing
HYMN



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the way for God with - in, and
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with -
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom



1 wake and hear - en, for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of Kings.
2 let each heart pre - pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 out thy grace we waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 forth, and let thy light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words Charles Coffin (1676-1749); trans. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-19440, after Johan Chandler (1806-1876), alt.

Music *Winchester New*, from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690

Please be seated.

THE INCARNATION

LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The prophet's call to shine the light of promise and transformation.
read by Jocelyn Turner

ANTHEM

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Words Saint Luke 1:46-55 with *Gloria patri*

Music *Evening Service in F*, Peter Aston (1938-2013)

LESSON

Saint Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel greets Mary.
read by Edward Poston

CAROL

THE angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessèd Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Words Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music Basque melody, arr. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

Please stand as you are able.

V The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

R Full of grace and truth.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him and in the days to come to be born of a virgin: Grant that we being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

All sing following hymn, during which the Procession moves to the Sanctuary.

HYMN



1 O come, O come E - man - u - el, Re - deem thy cap - tive Is - ra - el, That
2 O come, thou branch of Jes - se, draw The quar - ry from the li - on's claw; From
3 O come, O come thou day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy heal - ing light; Dis -
4 O come, thou Lord of Dav - id's key! The roy - al door fling wide and free; Safe -
5 O come, O come Ad - o - na - i, Who in thy glor - ious maj - es - ty, From



1 in - to ex - ile drear has gone, Far from the face of God's dear Son.
2 the dread cav - erns of the grave, From neth - er hell thy peo - ple save.
3 pel the long night's ling - er - ing gloom, And pierce the shad - ows of the tomb.
4 guard for us the heav - en - ward road, And bar the way to death's a - bode.
5 that high moun - tain clothed with awe Gav - est the folk the eld - er law.



Re - joice! Re - joice! E - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words The Great 'O' Antiphons, trans. J.M. Neale

Music *Veni Emmanuel*, 15th cent.; descant William Llewelyn (1925-2023)

Please be seated.

MANIFESTATION

LESSON

Saint John 3:16-21

St. John proclaims the Word of Life by which Christians are called to walk in the light of God.
read by The Very Rev'd Joseph Caldwell Alsay

Please stand as you are able. All sing

HYMN

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him,
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee,
once for our sal - va - tion slain;
robed in dread - ful ma - jes - ty;
still his daz - zling bo - dy bears,
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;
thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
those who set at nought and sold him,
cause of end - less ex - al - ta - tion
Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;
swell the tri - umph of his train:
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers;
claim the king - dom for thine own:
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music Helmsley, Augustine Arne (1710-1778); desc. David Bartlett (1947-2023)

The Congregation remains standing.

V Arise, shine, for thy light has come;
R **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.**

O LORD our God, who on the first day of creation didst make the light that scatters all darkness: Let Christ, the Light of lights, hidden away from all eternity, shine at last on thy people and free them from the darkness of sin. Fill our lives with joy as we go out to welcome the Son at his coming. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

The Choir sings

THE VESPER RESPONSORY

V Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
R Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
V Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
R Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
V Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
R Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Words Isaiah; the Psalms

Music plainsong, adapted from Giovanni da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy Spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

CHRIST the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; And the blessing of the holy and Undivided Trinity be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Congregation remains standing as the Procession leaves the Cathedral.

Organ Trumpet March: Conditor alme siderum Grimoaldo Macchia (b. 1972)

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON'S LITURGY

Officiant

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay, Dean-Elect of the Cathedral

Musicians

The Cathedral Choir

Canon Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. Edward Poston, Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator

Verger

Mr. Emery Dumas

Acolyte

Mr. Matthew O'Brien

Technology

Dr. Alan Cooper and Mrs. Linda O'Brien

WELCOME OUR NEXT DEAN

The Very Reverend Joseph Alsay

Dean-elect

The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay was called to be the Eleventh Dean of the Cathedral in September of this year, and he begins his ministry here today.

Father Alsay was received as a priest into the Episcopal Church on January 15, 2011- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He was previously ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on August 6, 2005. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Oklahoma Baptist University and earned the Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

From 2010 - 2025, Father Alsay was Rector of St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City. During his rectorship, St. Augustine's experienced vast growth and in 2014 went from being a "mission" of that diocese to a self-sustaining "parish." From 2005-2010, Father Alsay was Assistant Pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church in Tulsa where his responsibilities focused on evangelism, pastoral care, hospitality and liturgy. His appointment to Trinity was the first time in the congregation's history that an African-American was called to serve on the pastoral staff of this predominately Anglo congregation. He has also served as Director of the Aspirancy Program for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma.

Delivering his first sermon at age thirteen, Father Joseph's devotion to the cross comes naturally as the son of the late Reverend Glenzia Martin Alsay and Mrs. Beatrice Alsay. A self-proclaimed bearer of the passion of "the call" of Christ, he possesses a devotion to evangelism, interfaith dialogue, and the role that the Church plays in promoting honest dialogue about race and culture.

An active community servant, Father Alsay has served on the Board of Directors for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Society (Tulsa). He was a board member of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice (Tulsa), the Holland Hall Summer Program (Tulsa), the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, and the Oklahoma Alliance of Liturgy and the Arts,

Father Joseph has been the recipient of several awards including the Joseph Cardinal Bernadin Fellowship for Ecumenical Leadership, the Bishop Richard Allen Humanitarian Award, and the Grover Wright Promising Minority Seminarian Award.

Married to the former Cecelia K. Gray of Philadelphia since 2005, the couple has four children: Corinthia Gray (step-daughter), Zoe, Zipporah, and Caleb.



Diverse people Daily relevance Inspiring space

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