The Gospel of the Lord.

The congregation stands as the hymn is introduced.

**HYMN 75**
There’s a Voice in the Wilderness

**GOSPEL**
Matthew 11:2-11

**DIACON**
The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**PEOPLE**
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” “ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

**DIACON**
The Gospel of the Lord.

**PEOPLE**
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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**HOMILY**
A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

**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. 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**

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**OFFERTORY**
Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**
Presentation and Advent Doxology

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high. Fill your Church with watchfulness and hope.

O come, thou Lord of might. Guide the leaders of the nations in the path of knowledge and justice.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree. Comfort the world you created and love.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high. Welcome into your light all those who have died.

O come, Desire of nations. Heal those who suffer and comfort those who mourn.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION**
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (congregation kneeling)

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 Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands.

**THE PEACE**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

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**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right... to give our 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.
We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
The congregation kneels or remains standing, and 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 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 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

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
are asked to come forward to the High Altar. Those who are not staying for the healing service are asked to leave the church quietly.
We pray for the repose of the soul of
Dominique Lanceta
Harold Wayne Mohorn
Malcolm Stickle Van de Water
Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Malcolm Stickle Van de Water

Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.