

Grace Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I - 10:30 a.m.



BCP

PRELUDE

Come Now, Savior of the Heathen – J.S. Bach

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

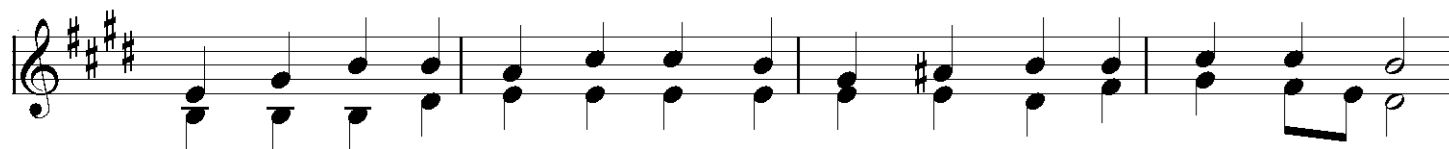
INTROIT (vv. 3-4)

(Choir only)

O come, O come, Emmanuel

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #59 (In the Blue Hymnal)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding



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 - pect - 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 child-ren 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.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE #S91 *(In the front section of the Blue Hymnal, sung by all)*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

159 THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

² **That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the
people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

⁴ **He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the
moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed be the Lord God, the God of
Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ **And blessed be his glorious Name for
ever! and may all the earth be filled
with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

Lector A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

-- The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE ADVENT WREATH - The Second Candle: The Candle of Peace

The Allred Family

The congregation remains standing

The Reader:

Each year during the Season of Advent, we light these candles. They together stand for us as a symbol of Christ breaking into a darkened world in need of the gifts he brings. We prepare, during this Advent season, to celebrate how that light first broke in at his birth on Christmas Day. We also look forward, in these days, to his return at his second coming, when the fullness of that light will shine on those who are prepared to receive him in joy.

The light of each of the flames symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ in the world and in our lives with the four outer candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The center candle is the Christ Candle to be lighted on Christmas Eve celebrating Jesus's appearance among us.

Last Sunday we lit the first candle of our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again today remembering that our hope is in Jesus.

Here the first candle is lighted.

The Reader:

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace.

It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for and God gives it to us when we turn to him in faith. The prophet Isaiah called Jesus "the Prince of Peace."

Through John the Baptist, as in today's Gospel, and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he might come in.

Our peace is found in Jesus Christ. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Here the second candle is lighted.

Let us pray.

The People:

Loving God, thank you for the peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Bless our worship. Guide us in all that we say and do. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Stephen Becker

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.

328 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other Ministers, especially **Sean**, our Presiding Bishop, **Samuel and Jennifer** our bishops, **Ed** our priest, and **Stephen** our guest priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially **Donald**, our President, **Josh** our Governor, **Jason** our mayor, and **John and Tommy** our Councilmen, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Silence

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, and **Brianna** Cantrall,

and those with special needs:

Ed Kelaher, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **Cindy** Bowman, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Jeannie** Belk, **Louise** Billings, **Jean** Binnicker, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Judy** Boyd, **Mike** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Jim** Clodfelter, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Bob** Cook, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Angie** Gowen, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jane** Grimes, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Jennifer & Michael** Hinton, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Marlene** Jones, **Ray** Kent, **Lisa** Lightfoot, **Lloyd** Lohr, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Kate** McKenzie, **Charles** McNeair, **Arnold** Miller, **Angela** Mott, **Debbie** Painter, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Lisa** Shepherd, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Morgan** Simmons, **Robin** Sink, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Jenny** Hedrick Stilwell, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Sandy** Wallace, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, **Charlotte** Young, and **Edward**.

“Are there others?” Lord, in your mercy; *Hear our prayer.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

331 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

332 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (Choir only) *Comfort, comfort ye my people* – arr. W. Stallson

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.*

PRESENTATION HYMN #380 (v. 3)

Praise to God

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

340 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer II*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

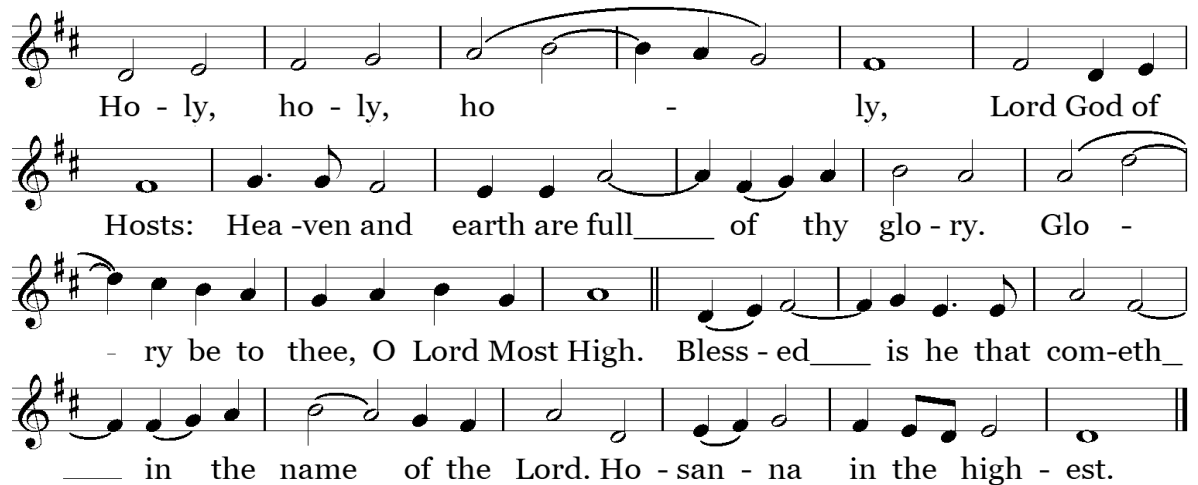
Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

SANCTUS
#S114



The people may stand or kneel

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

336

**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.**

337 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM #S158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

337 **PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

338 **INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

Celebrant 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.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine. Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally. If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

339 **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

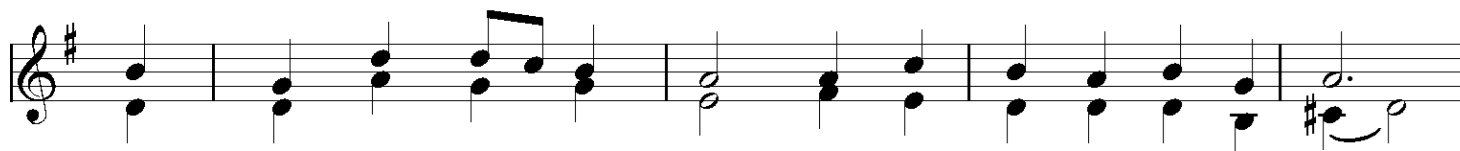
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you in holy light as you remain steadfast in faith, filled with joy, nurtured in peace, encouraged in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;



1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:



1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

339 THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

G Major Prelude - A. Hesse

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
in honor of our visiting priests.
Thank you!*

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our host is Donna Wiederhold.**

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

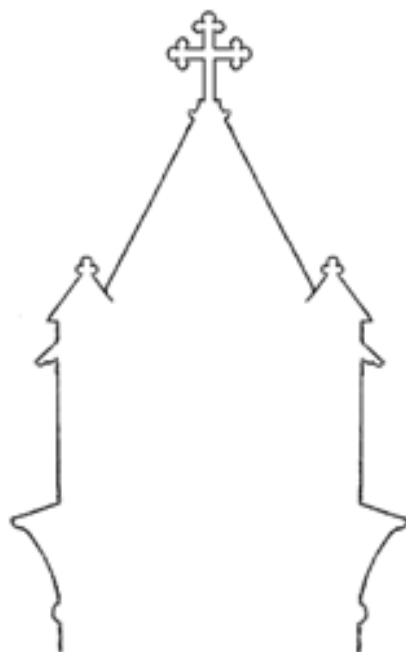
During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Lector: | Sally Dodd | Intercessor: | Judie Reed |
| Lay Eucharistic Ministers: | Tommy Black, Mary Matthews | Greeter: | Mary Cameron Welborn |
| Ushers: | Richard Wolfe, Louie Cox | Acolytes: | Jack Briggs Analise Petruzzi Chandler Allred |

Today we welcome as our guest priest The Reverend Stephen Becker

The Rev. Stephen Becker has served as a priest in the Episcopal Church since 1992. He recently retired as the Vicar of Saint Mary Magdalene in Seven Lakes, where he served for over six years. He resides in High Point, North Carolina, with his wife, Ellen. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. His 33 years of ministry in the Episcopal Church have provided him with a wide range of experiences, including serving as the Canon Educator on the Cathedral staff in St. Petersburg, Florida. In Northern Virginia, he served as a Hospice chaplain for over 10 years. He has been blessed by his participation in Cursillo in this and other dioceses. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, gardening, home improvement projects, and biking on the Greensboro Greenway.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Summer Blackburn, Youth Leader
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

2027

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for December is Karl Bolstad.