



ST. JAMES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

December 22, 2024
8:00A.M.

***Welcome!** Whether you are a first-time visitor, longtime member, or somewhere in-between, welcome to this place where together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and for the world. **About the service:** An Episcopal worship service may seem difficult to follow if it is unfamiliar to you; please participate as you are able and ask someone near you for assistance if you need it. We use this leaflet and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). **For more information:** Fill out a welcome card, located in the pew rack, and drop it in the offering plate or return it by mail. Call the Parish Office at 225-387-5141 with questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other needs.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand when the ministers of the service enter

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

Trisagion *said three times*

BCP 324

The appointed Collect of the Day and Lessons are found on the next page.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

see insert

The Confession & Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal

BCP 340

Collect of the Day

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Read responsively by half verse.

Psalm 80:1-7

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ O Lord God of hosts, *
**how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

Luke 1:39-55

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Today's flowers are given to the greater glory of God



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205 N. Fourth Street
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The Prayers of the People

Intercessor 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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; Chris, Drew, Lynn, and Don, our priests; and Casey, our seminarian; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the clergy and people of Chapel of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans.

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.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially, Joe, our President; Donald, the President-Elect; Jeff, our Governor; Sharon, our Mayor; and Sid, the Mayor-Elect; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

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.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Harry, Karleen, Ida, Jeffrey, Nancy, Lori, Beverly, Barbara, Billy those on our prayer list, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

O Lord and giver of life, receive our prayers for expectant mothers, especially Carrie Grace and Jordan, that they may happily come to the time of birth, and serving thee in all things may rejoice in thy providence. We thank thee, O Lord, for the birth of Turner Andrews Graham, Jr. and Houston Allan Link.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Jeffrey Samson, Sheila Feigley, Tricia, Mark Johnson, Jay Aronstein, Charlie Matherne, Joan McCaskill, Randy Morales, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace 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.**