

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 
 OF *St. John the Baptist*

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude Voluntary on *"Blest Be the King"*
Hymn Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
Greg Bottomley

Processional Hymn (*Please stand as able*) *Please see pages 8-9*

#74 | *"Blest Be the King"*

Children's Chat - *Robert Freeman*

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Hymn of Praise: Wait for the Lord (*Sung 3 times*)

Taize Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Vocalist & Guitar: Rob Freeman

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Micah:

Introduction to the First Reading

The prophet Micah speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Micah 5:2-5a

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Canticle 15



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name. [ANT.]
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever. [ANT.]
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. [ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A Reading from Hebrews:

Introduction to the Second Reading

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Christ offers his own body as the greatest sacrifice of all, the one by which we are made a holy people.

Hebrews 10:5-10

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand as able*) – *Please see page 10* Vs. 7 & 8

#56 | "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45[46-55]

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"].

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

*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.*

Choir Anthem – “O Come, Divine Messiah”

Words: Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin tr. St. Mary of St. Philip & Music: Godfrey Ridout.

The Prayers of the People *The Leader and People pray responsively.*

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

God of the prophets, hear us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth.

God of the angels, hear us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

God of our mothers, hear us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joesph, give your church dreams and visions, and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, hear us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

God of the shepherds, hear us and help us!

God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor.

God of the magi, hear us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

God of the victim, hear us and help us!

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

People **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 Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:
The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR
Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

Offertory Sentence & Interlude

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung.
Please stand as able)*

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. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 11

#72 | "Hark! The Glad Sound"

The Great Thanksgiving

“Enriching Our Worship,” Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give God 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. Because you sent your 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 we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

S130

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord. God of power and might,
hea- ven and earth are full, full of your glo- ry. Ho-
san- na in the high est. Ho- san- na in the high- est.
Bless- ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san- na in the high- est. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,** *And forgive us our trespasses,*
hallowed be thy Name, *as we forgive those*
thy kingdom come, *who trespass against us.*
thy will be done, *And lead us not into temptation,*
on earth as it is in heaven. *but deliver us from evil.*
Give us this day our daily bread. *For thine is the kingdom,*
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**
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.

Distribution Anthem - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" *Words: Based on The Magnificat & Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

Post Communion Prayer *(Please kneel or be seated)*

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction *(Please stand as able)*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**
 May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**
 May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *(Please stand as able)* *Please see page 12* #57 | "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending"

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace and with hope. Christ is near.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Fugue in D Major" William Goodwin

The Prayer Table Flowers for the Mass held on December 12th, were Dedicated to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Doug Moubray and Rose Eaton by Mary Moubray.

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector
Tom Sombar, Acolyte
Robert Freeman, Youth Minister / Soloist
Anthony Escobar, Lay Reader
Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming
Elizabeth Scheer, Cantor
Elizabeth Scheer & Susan Mattia, Videography/Streaming
Tom Waite, Usher

Descant

3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

things are in his hand, all a - ges and all

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt.
 Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.;
 harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930)

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Advent

56



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);

harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

CM

Recessional Hymn

"Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending"

57

Advent



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train:	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!
tree,	deep - ly wail - ing,	deep - ly wail - ing,
ers;	with what rap - ture,	with what rap - ture,
own:	Al - le - lu - ia!	Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Helmsley, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778)

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