

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
10:00am

**Voluntary** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

*J.S. Bach*

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Hymn 56** stanzas 1 & 7

I O come, O come, Em-man - u-el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra-el, that  
mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God — ap - pear.  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*The choir then sings the Introit, after which all sing a third verse.*

*Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more weep no more;  
He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; and in the gladness of your heart,  
the Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard. ~ Tone IV and Tomás Luis de Victoria.*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing night;  
Disperse the gloomy cloud of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**The Word of God**

**Penitential Order**

**Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

**Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*The Celebrant says*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." ~ *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and 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.**

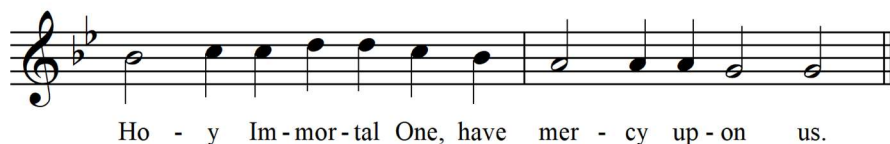
*The Priest stands and says*

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.**

## Trisagion

*Alexander Archangelsky*

*Sing three times*



## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

### Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26



- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 "I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations."

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*

“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”

### **Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

**Hymn 54**       Savior of the nations, come

**The Gospel**       **Luke 1:26-38**

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

*Celebrant*       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed p. 358

*All 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.

The Prayers of the People

*Leader* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, The diocese of Costa Rica, and our companion diocese of Botswana.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Diane, Joan, Bill, Cheryl, Debbie, Barry, Helen, Michelle, Jo, Pat, all those on our Parish Prayer List and all those on the Daughters of the King Prayer List; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

**p. 360**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# The Holy Communion

## Anthem at the Offertory *Ave Maria*

Franz Biebl

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae, et concepit Spiritu sancto.

*The angel of the Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.

*Hail, Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you.*

Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

*Mary said: Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; Be it unto me according to your word.*

Ave Maria...

Et verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.

*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

Ave Maria...

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, Ora pro nobis nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now, and in the hour of our death.*

~ *The Angelus*

## The Great Thanksgiving

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*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## *Sanctus & Benedictus*

*Healey Willan*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 given 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,

*Celebrant and People*

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -  
 rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*The Celebrant continues*

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 they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.



By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,



now and for ev - - - - er. A - MEN.

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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,

forever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Agnus Dei*

*Healey Willan*



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.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Hymns at the Communion

264 The Word, to whom earth and sea and sky

258 Virgin-born, we bow before thee

## Post Communion Prayer

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*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and 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.

## Blessing

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Dismissal

p. 366

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 74** Blest be the King whose coming

## Voluntary

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*Scan this QR code with your smart phone to give or to make a pledge payment. We appreciate your support of St. Mary's and our parish's ministries which serve our community and beyond.*



## **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Al Fritzsche, Mildred and Edward Phelps, Gerald Shane, and Pat and Frank Heffernan by Carol Fritzsche.

## **Christmas Wreaths**

The wreath on the Epistle side of the Main Altar of the Main Altar is given Gayle Kearns in loving memory of Amo Ragan Kearns Jr and Jo-Ann Kearns.

The wreaths on the front door are given by David and Janet Millis to the glory of God and in loving memory of his parents, Henry Albion Millis Jr. and Clara Sherrod Millis Parham.

The wreath on the Gospel side of the Main Altar is given by the Esker E. Amos Family to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Esker E. Amos Sr. and Alliene Amos, Esker E. Amos, Jr. and Donna Faye Watson Amos, Olivia Wadsley, Meredith Leigh Haynes and T. Norris Haynes, Raymond and Ann Watson, Martha W. Amos.

The wreaths on the front door are given by David and Janet Millis to the glory of God and in loving memory of his parents, Henry Albion Millis Jr. and Clara Sherrod Millis Parham.

The Advent Wreath is given by Sally Bulla in loving memory of Anne and Jim Bulla.

## **Poinsettias**

In memory of Lucille Fenn by Candy and Bill Fenn

In memory of Steve Wilkinson by Candy and Bill Fenn

In memory of Mike Fenn by Candy and Bill Fenn

In memory of Matilda Van DerVoort by Robert and Jane Whitehorn

In memory of Jack Marsh by Robert and Jane Whitehorn

In loving memory of Jason Hill by Tina Hayes

In loving memory of my twin, Jack Marsh, by Jane Marsh

In honor of Richard and Jane Whitehorn by Jane Marsh

In loving memory of Lindsey Pleban Miller by Jeff and Carroll Ann Miller

In memory of Ann Bowman James by Phil and Dottie Johnston

In memory of Dr. Harold Andrews by Phil and Dottie Johnston

In honor of Joyce and Rick Manning by Merrie M. Conaway

In memory of my wife, Marie King, by her husband Edward King

In honor of our grandchildren, Stella Rose and Henrietta McCloy and Graham McKenzie and in memory of Winn McCloy by John and Kathy McKenzie

In memory of our parents, Henrietta and Bill McKenzie and Alene and James Briggs by John and Kathy McKenzie

In memory of our son, Peter Caress, by Edward and Virginia Caress

In memory of Grover and Eleanor Cole by Hodge and Stephanie Cole

In memory of Linda Gardner and in honor of Ron Gardner by Hodge and Stephanie Cole

In memory of Marian and Norman Perry by Mary-Lynn and Dudley Moore

In memory of Norma and Dudley Moore, Sr. by Mary-Lynn and Dudley Moore

In thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren by Mary-Lynn and Dudley Moore

In memory of Lee and Pat Cain by Charles and Ann Cain

In memory of Al and Crystal Archibald by Charles and Ann Cain

In memory of Agnes Paseda by Barbara Crowell

In loving memory of Dr. Harold Andrews by Jules and Barbara Crowell

In loving memory of Wink Cottam by Fran White

In loving memory of Bob Evans by Marilyn Evans

In memory of Winifred Cottam by the families of Bob and Debbie Cottam and Dick and Evie Cottam

In memory of Robert Cottam by the families of Bob and Debbie Cottam and Dick and Evie Cottam

In memory of William Cottam by the families of Bob and Debbie Cottam and Dick and Evie Cottam

## Participants in the Liturgy

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev'd Robert P. Travis
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev'd Foster Mays
<i>Lectors</i>	Sam Johnson, Robert Otilar, Laura Simcox
<i>Verger</i>	Kathy Conrad
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Sally Bulla, Marilyn Evans
<i>Acolytes</i>	Griffin Hawks, Mason Hawks, Henry Simcox
<i>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</i>	Charles Hogan
<i>Video &amp; audio engineering</i>	Robin Hardman

## Acknowledgements

Text for the liturgy from *The Book of Common Prayer*, New York: Church Publishing, 1979, 231, 355-365, 388-389; Search committee prayer: *Prayers for Pastor & People*, Compiled and edited by Carl G. Carozzi, New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1984, 139. Used with permission. The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Originated in riteplanning.com, © 2020 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. The following music is reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-716676. All rights reserved. Gloria S-278 and Sanctus S-128, Music by William Mathias, © Oxford University Press. Agnus Dei, Music by Eddie Bass, © Eddie Bass, used by permission.

## Vestry 2023

<b>Frosty Culp – Senior Warden</b>	<b>John Wall – Junior Warden</b>
<b>John Haworth – Clerk</b>	<b>David Jones – Treasurer</b>
<b>Diane Popalis</b>	<b>Audrey Congdon Harris</b>
<b>Evie Cottam</b>	<b>Sally Bulla</b>
<b>Emily Fisher</b>	<b>Laura Simcox</b>
<b>Steve Bingham</b>	<b>Hodge Cole</b>
<b>Herb Goins</b>	<b>Candice Greig</b>

***Keeping in Prayer this Week:*** We pray for those whose needs are closely linked with ours and for those who suffer from any sickness, grief or distress, also remembering and praying for those on our parish prayer list, including Helen Congdon, Linda Nitz, Mary Gordon, Rick Manning, Emily Finch Johnson, Anne Miressi, Trish, Thea Oglesby, Steve, Jerri Phillips, Elizabeth White, Richard Glover, Rick Lewis, Frankie Gurganus, Nancy Jenkins, Kathy, Diane Kearns, Joan Cardwell, Bill Fenn, Cheryl Warren, Debbie Ewing, Barry, Helen Idol, Michelle Pearl, Jo Stillely, Pat Hayes, Gloria, Marty Voight, Terry Strader, Clara Blythe, Susan Hayne, Sam Hawley, Beverly Sagneri, Robert Eamon Kelly, Janne Bulla Senn and family, David Stewart, Dick Shaler, Jane Gill-Shaler.

***About St Mary's Prayer List:*** St Mary's maintains a published prayer list, which is added to the service leaflet and to the e-news each week. To add someone, please secure permission to use either the first and/or last names from the person to be added, and then contact Denise Story at 336.886.4756 or by email at [admin@stmarysepisc.org](mailto:admin@stmarysepisc.org). Denise needs your name and contact information so we can get pastoral updates periodically. Individuals will be updated at the end of the month unless the request is renewed, which you are welcome to do at any time.

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