



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday, December 22, 2024  
11:00am

*Welcome to Saint Mary's! We are glad you are joining us today for either in person or online worship. If you're new to the Episcopal Church, know that we follow an ancient and enduring pattern of worship called Liturgy, which is designed to give glory to God and draw people closer to God. We sing and pray together, and stand, sit and kneel at different times using our bodies, minds and voices as we worship in the Spirit. All of those directions are in this guide, which is drawn from the Book of Common Prayer you see in the pew racks in front of you. We have communion every Sunday (and sometimes more often!) and everyone is invited to the altar, regardless of membership or from what denomination they've come. If you haven't been baptized, or aren't sure you're ready to receive communion, we invite you to come forward for a blessing and talk to a priest after the service about getting baptized. For more information about Saint Mary's, please see our website at [www.stmaryshighpoint.org](http://www.stmaryshighpoint.org) or check out our [Facebook Page](#).*

The liturgy begins on page 355 in *The Book of Common Prayer*.

## Welcome & Announcements

**Voluntary** Savior of the nations, come

*J.S. Bach*

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

## Hymn 56

1 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.*

*Drop down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:*

*let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together.*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

## The Word of God

### Penitential Order

#### Opening Acclamation

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*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*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - y Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

## 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

### 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 80:1-7***Qui regis Israel*

Edward Bairstow



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading | Joseph • like a | flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are en- | throned up- | on the | cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Ma- | nasseh, \*  
stir up your | strength and | come to | help us.

*Second half of the chant*

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O | God of | hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and | we shall | bë | saved.

<sup>4</sup> O LORD | God of | hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
de- | spite the | prayers of • your | people?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the | bread of | tears; \*  
you have given them | bowls of | tears to | drink.

<sup>6</sup> You have made us the de- | rision • of our | neighbors, \*  
and our | ene•mies | laugh us • to | scorn.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O | God of | hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and | we shall | bë | saved.

**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.**

**Hymn 268** Ye who claim the faith of Jesus**The Gospel**       **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

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

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

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 Rev'd Robert P. Travis

**The Nicene Creed**        *All stand as able.*

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**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 Church of the Province of Uganda, The diocese of Costa Rica, and our companion diocese of Botswana, most especially Santa Maria Siquierres.

*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 Clara, Susan, Sam, Eamon, David, Dick, Jane, Denni, Shirley, Greg, Land, 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, especially Barbara Cassity, mother of Mark Cassity, 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 your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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*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*

*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*

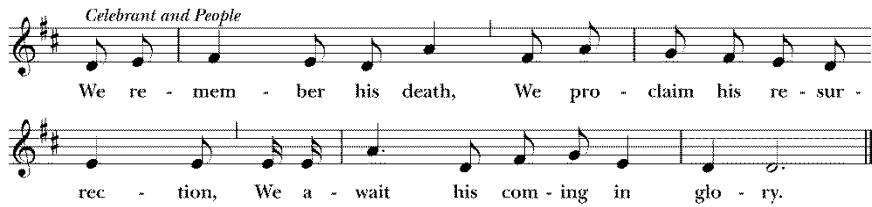
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the 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*



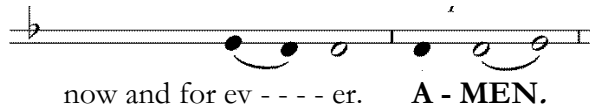
We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -  
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*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

Missa Cum júbilo

*Lower voices*

Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of God, you \_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ a-way  
 the sins of the world: Have\_ mer - cy on\_\_\_ us.

*Upper voices*

Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:

*All*

Have mer - cy on\_\_\_ us. Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ of God,  
 you \_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_ a-way the sins\_\_\_ of\_ the world:

Grant \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_ peace.

## *The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Hymns at the Communion

- 54 Savior of the nations, come
- 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

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

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 437** Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

**Voluntary** Magnificat primi toni

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

✠ ✠ ✠

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## Participants in the Liturgy

*Celebrant* The Rev'd Foster Mays

*Preacher* The Rev'd Robert P. Travis

*Lectors* Steve Bingham

*Verger* Kathy Conrad

*Eucharistic Ministers* Sally Bulla

*Acolytes* Henry Simcox, Alex Brehm, Willow Travis

*Organist & Choirmaster* Charles Hogan

## 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

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**Vestry 2024**

**Herb Goins – Senior Warden**  
**Jason Johnson – Clerk**  
**Emily Fisher**  
**Sally Bulla**  
**Candice Greig**  
**Will Moore**  
**Patrick Simcox**

**John Wall – Junior Warden**  
**Stephen Greig – Treasurer**  
**Audrey Congdon Harris**  
**Steve Bingham**  
**Hodge Cole**  
**Lenora Sparks**  
**Mark Penley**

**Incoming Vestry 2025**

**Herb Goins – Senior Warden**  
**Jason Johnson**  
**Candice Greig**  
**Will Moore**  
**Patrick Simcox**  
**Ellen Walsh**  
**Nancy Amos - Clerk**

**Tim Yates**  
**Steve Bingham**  
**Hodge Cole**  
**Lenora Sparks**  
**Mark Penley**  
**Amanda Gane**

***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, Emily Finch Johnson, Anne Miressi, Trish, Thea Oglesby, Steve, Jerri Phillips, Elizabeth White, Richard Glover, Rick and Margaret Lewis, Frankie Gurganus, Nancy Jenkins, Kathy, Diane Kearns, Joan Cardwell, Bill Fenn, Cheryl Warren, Debbie Ewing, Barry, Helen Idol, Jo Stilley, Pat Hayes, Gloria, Clara Blythe, Susan Hayne, Sam Hawley, Robert Eamon Kelly, David Stewart, Dick Shaler, Jane Gill-Shaler, Denni Mikola, Shirley, Greg Denison, Ray, Robert Taylor, Michelle Maynard, Hannah, Linda Focarelli, Carter, Tom Peterson, Loyd, Mike Hennen, Connie Strader, Ginny Long, Katherine Anne Marsh, Em, Phil Williams, Kim Williams, Michael, Jennifer Boggs, Land Hurley.

***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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