

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ
Holy Eucharist with Rites of Confirmation & Reception
Sunday, February 2, 2025
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 or check out our [Facebook Page](#).

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

Voluntary Mit Fried' und Freud' ich fahr' dahin

J.S. Bach

In peace and joy I now depart, According to God's will, For full of comfort is my heart, So calm and sweet and still; So doth God his promise keep, And death to me is but a sleep.

The Word of God

All stand and sing

Hymn 93 Angels, from the realms of glory

The Bishop says

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

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

The Bishop continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Robert Powell, S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

p. 213

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

All are seated.

A reading from the book of Malachi

3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24 *Domini est terra*

Chant: George Thalben-Ball



⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O ever- | lasting | doors; *
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.

⁸ "Who is this | King of | glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the | LORD, | mighty • in | battle."

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O ever- | lasting | doors; *
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.

¹⁰ "Who is he, this | King of | glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
| he is • the | King of | glory."

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 517 How lovely is thy dwelling-place (*para. Psalm 84*)

The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

All are seated.

The Rt. Rev'd Samuel Rodman

Confirmation & Reception

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.
Wendy Fuscoe

Presenters I present these persons to be received into this Communion.
Erin McDonough
Kathy Fruge
Tammy Lewis
Slade Lewis

Presenters I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.
Betsy Austin
Brenda Jones
Jorie Doster

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

***People* I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

***People* Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

***People* Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

***People* Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

***People* Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

***People* Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Bishop says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *them* for your service; and sustain *them* all the days of their life. **Amen.**

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

For Reaffirmation

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

p. 360

Bishop 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

Then the Bishop 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 Bishop 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,

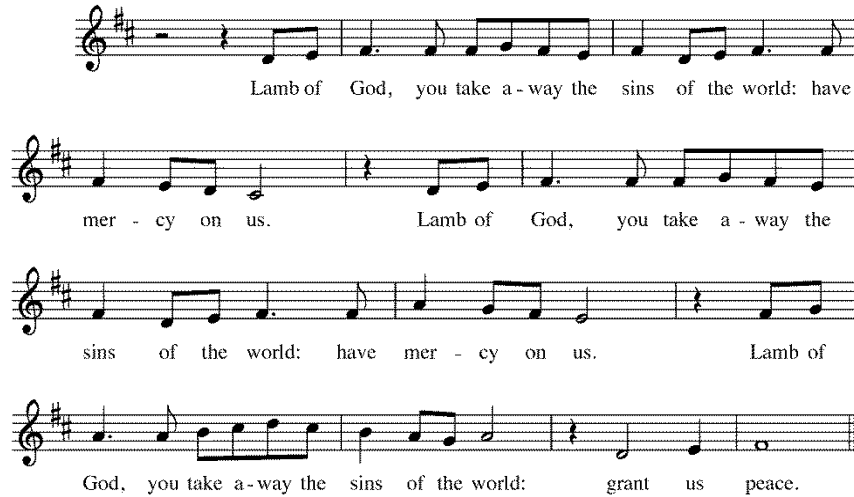
now and for ev - - er. **A--MEN.**

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

All 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.

Agnus Dei

Susan Calvin Fletcher



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Bishop says

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 are welcome at God's holy Altar. If you normally receive communion in another church, of any denomination, you are welcome to do so here. If you are drawn to Jesus, but not yet baptized into any Christian community, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. In that case, simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail, or ask the priest, and you will be given a blessing. Ask the priest afterwards about baptism and joining St. Mary's. We offer gluten-free wafers as well. Please let the priest know if you need one.

Music at the Communion

Motet

Edward Bairstow

Jesu, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.

~ Bernard of Clairvaux, tr. Edward Caswell

Hymn 259 Hail to the Lord who comes

Sending Out Prayer

Bishop and People

As the people of Saint Mary's, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread one cup. Amen.

After Communion, all stand and the Bishop says

Let us pray.

Bishop and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop blesses the people.

Bishop Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

People **From this time forth for evermore.**

Bishop The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 657 Love divine, all loves excelling

Voluntary Grand Chœur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout

Altar Flowers: The flowers are to the glory of God and in honor of Bishop Samuel Rodman.

Participants in the Liturgy

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rt. Rev'd Samuel Rodman

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Robert P. Travis, The Rev'd Foster Mays

Lector

Jean Almos

Verger

Kathy Conrad

Chalicers

Alicia Archibald, Jorie Doster

Acolytes

Alex Brehm, Jonathan Richardson, Kellen Rose

Organist & Choirmaster

Charles Hogan

Virtual Verger

Kerr Ramsay

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-280 and Sanctus S-129, Music by Robert Powell, © Church Publishing; Memorial Acclamation S-138, © Church Publishing; Agnus Dei, © Susan Calvin Fletcher.

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Vestry 2025

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

Tim Yates – Junior Warden
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, 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, Erin McDonough.

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. 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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