



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

4 ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

To Lift People Up As Christ Calls

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
Advent Pageant

Thank you for joining us today. Many of us gathered here today were not raised in The Episcopal Church, but have come to find in this parish a source of spiritual growth. If you are new to St. Christopher's or visiting with us today, please fill out one of the visitor's cards found in the pews and put it in the offering plate or give it to one of the ushers.

Our nursery is not staffed today, but feel free to use the facilities with your children. We also offer activity bags in the vestibule for children of all ages. Today is our Advent Pageant so there is no children's chapel. If you didn't register or are visiting us for the first time, there are still plenty of roles. Please take your child to the parish hall before the service starts to join us!

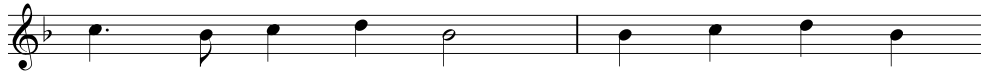
We invite you to join us for a special St. Nicholas Day celebration in the parish hall following the service. Please feel free to introduce yourself to any of us if we don't get to you first.

Opening Prayer

Processional Hymn 54



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpinus (1560?-1616).

THE WORD OF GOD

Versicle and Response

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

Amen.

The Collect of Purity

The Celebrant says

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.*

Magnificat

Hymnal S-247

Antiphon

Unison or harmony

1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness

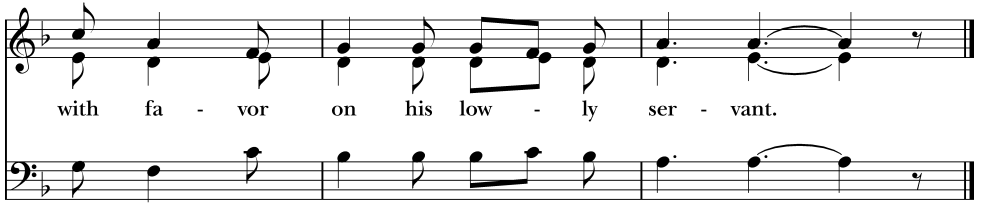
1. My soul pro -

of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in

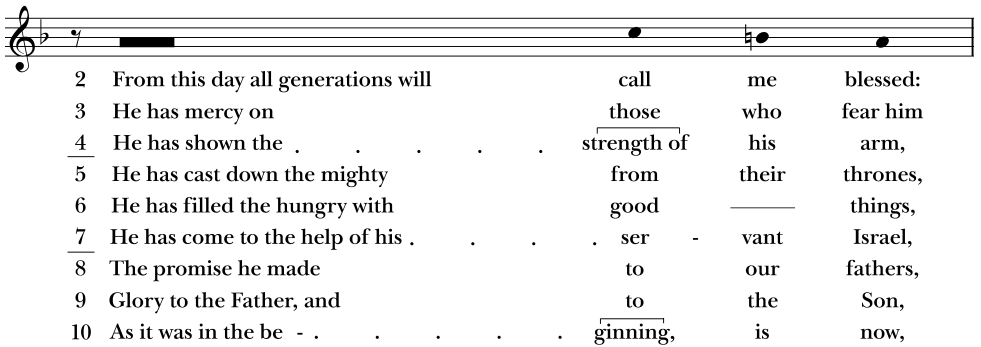
claims the great - ness of the Lord, my

God my Sa - vior; for he has looked

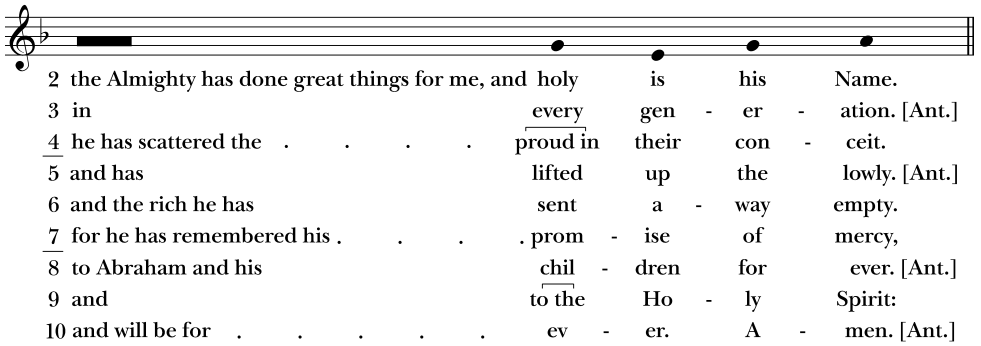
spi - rit re - joic - es in God



with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.



2 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 3 He has mercy on those who fear him
 4 He has shown the strength of his arm,
 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 6 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 7 He has come to the help of his ser - vant Israel,
 8 The promise he made to our fathers,
 9 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 10 As it was in the be - ginning, is now,



2 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
 3 in every gen - er - ation. [Ant.]
 4 he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit.
 5 and has lifted up the lowly. [Ant.]
 6 and the rich he has sent a - way empty.
 7 for he has remembered his prom - ise of mercy,
 8 to Abraham and his chil - dren for ever. [Ant.]
 9 and to the Ho - ly Spirit:
 10 and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

The antiphon may be sung in unison, with the counter-melody played by an instrument, or it may be sung in three parts.

Music: *Cathedral of the Isles*, Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1978 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

People Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Insert

Psalm 80:1-7

Insert



Re - store us, O God of hosts; show the light of your coun-ten-ance and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Insert

The Gospel, Advent Pageant & Music

During the pageant, the congregation will join in singing announced verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Hymn #56) and the first verse of What Child Is This (Hymn #115). At the conclusion of the Pageant, please join the children in singing People, Look East.

Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Insert

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Hymn #56)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 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 - jice! Re - jice!
 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. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

What Child Is This (Hymn #115)

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is

1. ta - ble. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour - ish. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Moment of Silent Reflection

The people stand.

The Nicene Creed

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

As we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends the Messiah in the womb of a virgin, saying: *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For the Church: especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Daniel our Bishop, that our hearts may leap for joy as we recognize God-with-us in the people and events of our lives. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For this parish family, especially Hillary and Kristen our priests, that we, like Mary, may believe that God will do great things in and through our ordinariness. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For new parents and expectant parents, that they may see God's presence in their child and nurture the gift of life entrusted to them. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For our nation, for Joseph our President, Joshua our Governor, and for all those who bear responsibility for its future in politics, industry, commerce and education, that they may be inspired by the Prince of Peace to work together for justice, freedom and hope. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For all who travel during this season, that they may arrive safely and share the love and warmth of family and friends. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For those burdened by poverty, war, injustice and oppression, and for the sick and those in need of our prayers, remembering

especially Richard, Larry, Thomas, Catherine, Beth, M.L., Darryl, Monica, Jim, Liam, Linda, Jenny, John, Mark, Dorothy, and for those we now name either silently or aloud (pause); that the birth of Christ may bring bright light and peace to their lives. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For those who have died, remembering especially those in whose loving memory the Christmas flowers have been given, and for those we now name either silently or aloud (pause); that they may rejoice in the presence of Mary's child. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, Saint Christopher and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Celebrant Gracious God, who by the power of the Spirit sanctified the mother of your Son, hear our prayers and grant that we, like the Virgin Mary, may be obedient to your will. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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.

Absolution

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

The Peace

Welcome and Concerns

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Alma Redemptoris Mater* Palestrina

Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,

assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again,

To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,

yet remained a virgin after as before,

You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

Presentation of Alms and Oblations

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host:

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic 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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars:

earth, winds and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways,

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels

in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

WLP Hymnal 850



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,—



hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na



in the high - est. *Bless-ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na,

Ho - san - na in the high - est, the high - est.

*optional text
Bless - ed is the one

Music: Jonathan Dimmock (b. 1957), from *Missa Appalachia*. Copyright © 1996 Jonathan Dimmock.

The people kneel

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.
 On the night before he died for us,
 Jesus was at the 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 Saint Christopher 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.*

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

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem, *Jesus, Lamb of God*

LEVAS II Hymnal 271

Leader *Response*

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

Leader *Response*

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

Leader

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

Response

grant us peace. _____

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.

The Communion of the People

All who seek a closer relationship with God are invited to receive communion. Congregants are invited to leave their pews starting at the front of the church and working back. If intinction is your preference, please sanitize your hands first.

Communion Hymn 332



1 O God, un - seen yet ev - er near, thy pres - ence may we feel;
2 Here may thy faith - ful peo - ple know the bless - ings of thy love,
3 We come, o - be - dient to thy word, to feast on heaven - ly food:
4 Thus may we all thy word o - bey, for we, O God, are thine;



and thus in - spired with ho - ly fear, be - fore thine al - tar kneel.
the streams that through the des - ert flow, the man - na from a - bove.
our meat the Bo - dy of the Lord, our drink his pre - cious Blood.
and go re - joic - ing on our way, re - newed with strength di - vine.

Words: Edward Osler (1798-1863). Music: *St. Flavian*, from *Day's Psalter*, 1562.

Prayer after Communion

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.

Advent Blessing

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 upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn 56 (vs. 2,3,6,8)

Pg. 7

The Dismissal Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
 Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Veni Emanuel

Drackley



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