

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 AM + December 22nd, 2024**



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**Welcome!**

You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are,  
wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome!

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## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

### The Word of God

**Prelude:** Creator of the Stars of Night (Edwin T. Childs)

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath*** to the tune of *Away in a Manger*

A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE.  
A candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

**Opening Hymn:** "Blest be the King whose coming" Blue Hymnal 74

*Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.*

*People: **You come to your people and set them free.***

*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.**

**Kyrie** Lord, have mercy upon us S91

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Gloria** *Spoken by all*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

*Said in unison*

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.**

## A Reading from the Prophet 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.

*Celebrant:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## **Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP**

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.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

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.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

## **A Reading from the letter to the 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.

*Celebrant:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn:** "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" Blue Hymnal 66

### **The Holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-45(46-55)**

*People's response before the Gospel*      **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.**"]

## **The Sermon**

Rev. Sean Maloney

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Spoken by all, standing.*

**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.**

**Prayers of the People** - from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary, *The Leader and People pray responsively*

May our hearts leap for joy as we again assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming. With Mary, may our souls proclaim God's Greatness as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church: As the celebration of your incarnation draws near, we remember the many ways your revelation is lifted up in the world and we pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world, and especially for those whose very faith endangers their lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: As you lead, us Lord, from darkness to light, may we be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, rooting out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your arm. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our own spirits: May our hearts be magnified and made much bigger than we think possible. May this season of Advent stir in us such faith that we exert ourselves to be your light in a darkened world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community: May we be enriched by welcoming the stranger and Be drawn to a bright future in service to you, while also remembering and Honoring those in the past who guided us into faith. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and suffering. May they find healing and peace. [Especially we pray for...*prayer list*]  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the dead and those on the threshold of death. May they and we be Welcomed into the place of glory our Lord has prepared for us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we gather up the prayers of this household, confident in your promise to be with us always. Guide us in wisdom and faith; that we might live into the life created for us, trusting in your will. All this we ask through your Son, our redeemer, Jesus, who is your Christ, **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins to God. (Silence may be kept.)

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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**     *All stand*

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

*People:*     **And also with you.**

**Announcements:**



## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving - *Eucharistic Prayer 2*

**Offertory Anthem:** "Sing of Mary, pure and lowly" Blue Hymnal 277

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* 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 (say):

**Sanctus:** Holy, Holy, Holy

S 114

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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 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.**

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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia,**

**Fraction Anthem:** O Lamb of God

S 158

**Communion Music:** Gabriel's Message

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould

Music: *GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol*

### **The Post Communion Prayer**

*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.**

**Closing Hymn:** "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord"  
Blue Hymnal 437

## **The Dismissal**

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Postlude:** Advent Postlude Jacques Louis Battman



**Thank you for joining us today!**

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if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin, please contact the church office ([aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org](mailto:aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org)) To learn more about us, visit <https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org> or call us at 978 256 5673.

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