



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

December 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 355.

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Hymn 54)

Johann Sebastian Bach

THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

Sung by all, standing.

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

The Presider says the Collect for Purity

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.**

TRISAGION, HYMNAL, S 102

Alexander Archangelsky

Sung three times, by all.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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 WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON [*The people are seated.*]

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 54 "Savior of the nations, come!"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Sung by all, standing. During the singing of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade may follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Jackie Thomson

A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Creed.

THE NICENE CREED [*Said by all.*]

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 [*All remain standing.*]

Form V, Book of Common Prayer, p. 389

The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. Throughout you are invited to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor ...we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

The Intercessor concludes

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People **To you, O Lord our God.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [*All kneel in silence.*]

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 Presider 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.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. [*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: "There is no rose"

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (transl. "Wonderful thing")

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three:
Pares forma. (transl. "Equal in form")

The angels sang the shepherds to,
Gloria in excelsis deo: (transl. "Glory to God in the highest")
Gaudeamus. (transl. "Let us rejoice")

George Bayley

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, HYMNAL, S 151

Tonus peregrinus

Sung by all, as indicated.

The musical notation consists of four staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the second 'All'. Both have the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The third staff is labeled 'Cantor' and the fourth 'All'. The lyrics for the third staff are 'Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us' and for the fourth staff are 'keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.'

INVITATION [The People are seated.]

As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Comforter. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.

COMMUNION MUSIC [Sung by all.]

HYMN 60 "Creator of the stars of night"

Conditor alme siderum

HYMN 56 (stanzas 1, 3-6) "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER [Said by all.]

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.

THE BLESSING

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 497 "How bright appears the Morning Star"

Wie schön leuchtet

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL [The people respond,]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Veni, veni, Emmanuel* (Hymn 56)

David Boulware-Kelley