

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2300 CATHEDRAL AVE—WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Welcome to our Visitors! We are thankful for your presence with us today and we invite you to join us as we worship God. The liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the music from the blue Hymnal 1982 and the beige African American Heritage Hymnal (AAHH). The “S” music is found in the service section in the front of the Blue Hymnal. All books are found in the pew racks. Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.

If you are a visitor, please fill out a visitor card and give to an usher.
Please come by the Welcome Table in the Undercroft after the service.

The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.

VOLUNTARY

Veni Emmanuel

Gerhard Krapf

Please stand.

HYMN 76 (*Blue Hymnal*)
Sung by all.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant ALMIGHTY GOD, UNTO WHOM ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sung by all.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Christ have mercy upon us.
 Lord have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.*People* ***And with thy spirit.****Celebrant* Let us pray,

STIR UP YOUR POWER, O LORD, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

THE WILDERNESS AND THE DRY LAND SHALL BE GLAD,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,

the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
 A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
 No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

John Davy (1763-1824)

Sung by the choir.

4 HAPPY ARE THEY WHO HAVE THE GOD OF JACOB for their help! *
 whose hope is in the LORD their God;
 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 who keeps his promise for ever;
 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
 the LORD cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE

James 5:7-10

BE PATIENT, THEREFORE, BELOVED, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The people stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN 66 (*Blue Hymnal*) Come, thou long expected Jesus Stuttgart
Sung by all.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

WHEN JOHN HEARD IN PRISON what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The people sit.

A brief time of silent reflection is kept after the sermon.

The people stand.

THE NICENE CREED

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

Leader

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean the Presiding Bishop and Mariann our Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants ☩ departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Add your petitions aloud or silently

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people kneel

All **MOST MERCIFUL GOD,**
*we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.*

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

The people sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have a birthday or anniversary this week, please come forward for a prayer.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

The Celebrant gives an Offertory sentence.

The offering plate will be passed by the ushers. You may also donate by texting ALLSOULS to 73256, or by scanning the QR code.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett (b. 1952)

Sung by the choir.

*Thou shalt know him when he comes Not by any din of drums,
Not his manners nor his airs, Nor by anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes, Not by crown or by his gown,
But his coming known shall be By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes.*

The people stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People ***It is meet and right so to do.***

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS S 114

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Sung by all.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel.

Celebrant All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "TAKE, EAT, THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "DRINK THIS, ALL OF YOU; FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU, AND FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. DO THIS, AS OFT AS YE SHALL DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

AGNUS DEI S 158

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Sung by all

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All *We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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 people may sit or remain kneeling.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the chalice, gently guide the base of the chalice with your hand to allow the rim to reach your lips. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the bread) into the common chalice. Receiving in one kind is full communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your arms across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

HYMN AAHH 193 (Beige Hymnal)

Soon and Very Soon

Sung by all.

Soon and Very Soon

The people kneel.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All *Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost*

assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

Celebrant

FRIENDS, LIFE IS SHORT and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel this way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The people stand.

HYMN 444 (*Blue Hymnal*)
Sung by all.

Blessed be the God of Israel

Thornbury

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Fughetta on “People Look East”

Richard Shephard



Please join us in the undercroft after the service for Coffee Hour.

Thank you for joining us today at All Souls.

We are privileged to have you with us and invite you to return
and worship with us again.



Staff

The Rev. Sara Palmer, *Rector*
rector@allsoulsdc.org
Andrea Meier, *Parish Administrator*
office@allsoulsdc.org
Tom Andrew, *Director of Music*
tom@allsoulsdc.org

Acolytes

Venessa Acham
Heidi Rasciner

Lectors

Embry Howell
Rick Taylor
Annie Plews

Ushers

JoAnn Lafon
Al Mueller

Coffee Hour

Leybi Romero

All Souls Vestry, vestry@allsoulsdc.org

Venessa Acham (2026)
Kurt Jacobs (2026)
James Lewis (2026)
John Longstreth (2027)
Tara Mancini (2028)
Nancy Morgan (2027)
Joe Neal (2028)
Will Stewart (2028)
Arthur Warren (2027)

Lisa Watson

senior.warden@allsoulsdc.org

Jeff Wells

junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org

Will Stewart

treasurer@allsoulsdc.org

For Vestry Minutes and Parish Documents

www.allsoulsdc.org/governance



Find AllSoulsDC on Facebook & Instagram

All Souls Episcopal Church

2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008-1505
www.allsoulsdc.org | 202-232-4244 | office@allsoulsdc.org