

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

Celebrating 154 Years of ministry in Columbia, South Carolina

*The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word
and share the love of God with all people.*



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I

December 21, 2025

10:00AM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector

Mr. Leonard Gordon, Supply Organist

Vestry Theme for 2025

Reset to the New Normal

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all.

Vision Statement

{To become} a vibrant self-sustaining institution that serves and respects the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our community and congregation, while preserving the history of the church.

Quiet Please: Please be mindful of others as you enter the church before the service. Upon entering the nave, there should be a period of quiet and reverence as many parishioners are in prayer and or meditation.

OFFERINGS can be made online

<https://onrealm.org/StLukesEpiscopa59532/Give>

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*Use your phone to hold over the image

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church



It is the parish custom to observe silence prior to the start of the Eucharist. Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord, during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

We invite you to join us as an active participant in our worship of God.

This bulletin is your guide to our worship. You will find three books in front of you that contain most of the material needed for this service; *The Book of Common Prayer* [BCP], *The Hymnal 1982* [H], and *Lift Every Voice and Sing, II* [L].

[S] denotes service music which is found in the front of the hymnal.

Prelude

“Christ the Redeemer”

Tom Birchwood

Introit H • 56

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
vv. (1 & 7)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

✠ indicates where to make the sign of the cross

**At the ringing of the bell, all stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn in Procession H • 66 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Setting: David Hurd

✠ At the beginning “Holy God...”

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Salutation

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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 people sit.*

The Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Again 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.”

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

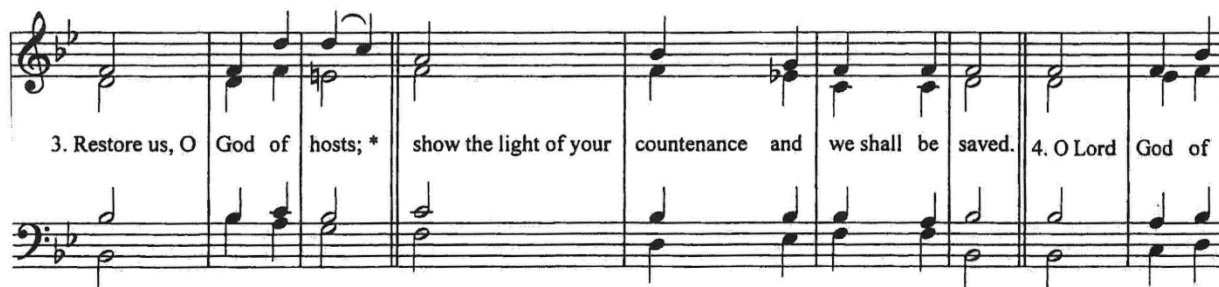
**The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter, where indicated.*



1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on 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 your self. 17. And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call up-

on your Name. 18. Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H • 265

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Gabriel’s Message

The Gospel Acclamation

Tony Alonzo

**Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.*

Refrain based on *Besançon*, French Carol

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff is divided into two parts: the first part is labeled 'Cantor' and the second part is labeled 'All'. The lyrics are 'Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia. Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia.' The second staff is also divided into two parts: the first part is labeled 'Cantor' and the second part is labeled 'All'. The lyrics are 'Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia.' The third staff is divided into two parts: the first part is labeled 'Cantor' and the second part is labeled 'All'. The lyrics are 'Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.' The notation includes various musical symbols such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, as well as a double bar line at the end of the third staff.

Cantor *All*
Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia. Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia.

Cantor *All*
Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Cantor *All*
Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be
done to me according to your word.” (*Lk. 1:38*)

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Priest ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Raphiell Ashford

The Nicene Creed (*monotoned by Choir & Congregation*)

BCP 326

✠ “and the life of the world to come. Amen”

The Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP 387

✠ “Give to the departed eternal rest.”

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 330

✠ “pardon and deliver you from all your sins ...”

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Fr. Raphiell+

Offertory Anthem “Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth” Richard Shephard
Alex Lopez-Arrocha, Violin

Greatorex

(*Gloria Patri*)

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

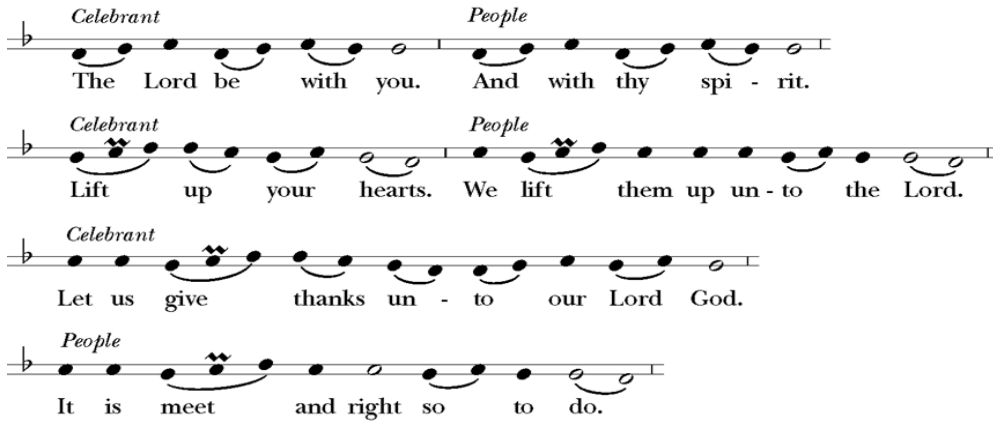
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

**The people remain standing.*

Sursum corda

**The Celebrant proceeds*



Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

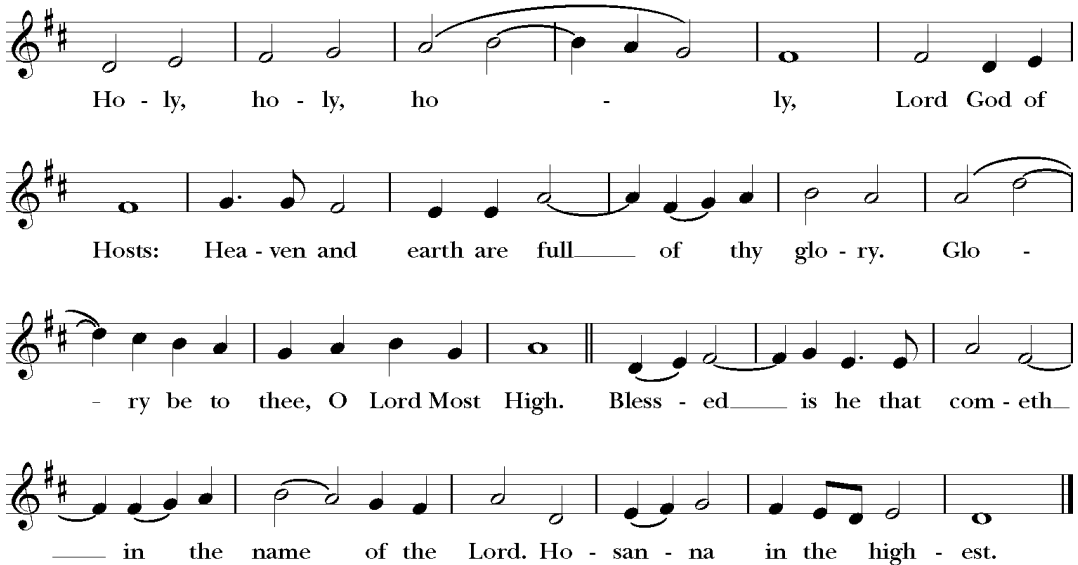
People

It is meet and right so to do.

**A Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays; and on other occasions as appointed.*

Sanctus et Benedictus

Setting: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ “Blessed is he ...”

**After the Sanctus, the people kneel or stand.*

✠ “and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction ...”

The Great Amen

*The Priest sings the first “Amen.”



Setting: From *Missa de Angelis*; Plainsong, Mode 6; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*) S·119

Plainsong

*The priest intones the *Pater Noster*.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating the syllables are spread across multiple notes.

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
 be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
 dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

“O Lord, I Am not Worthy”

Non Dingus

*Text can be found on the pew card and inside the back cover of The Hymnal 1982.

Agnus Dei

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.

People Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

*Said by all.

Priest ✠ 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.

Instructions for Receiving Communion

- *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Communion, and those who do not desire to receive Communion may come to the Altar rail to receive God's blessing.*
- *An usher will direct you to approach the Altar for Communion or a blessing. Please kneel, if you are able, at the Altar Rail.*
- *To receive the consecrated bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed and facing up.*
- *To receive the consecrated wine, please guide the chalice to your lips as it is offered. However, if you prefer, you may leave the consecrated bread in your palm and the Chalice bearer will intinct the host into the wine and place it on your tongue. **Please do not personally intinct the host into the chalice.***
- *If you desire to receive Communion but are not able to come to the Altar rail, please notify an usher and the Priest and Chalice bearer will bring Communion to you.*

The Music at Communion

H• 475

“God Himself Is with Us”

Tysk

H• 331

“Now, my Tongue, the Mystery Telling”

Grafton

H• 278

“Sing We of the Blessed Mother”

Rustington

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

**All kneel as able or sit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People


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.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; And the blessing of Almighty God, ☩ the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*



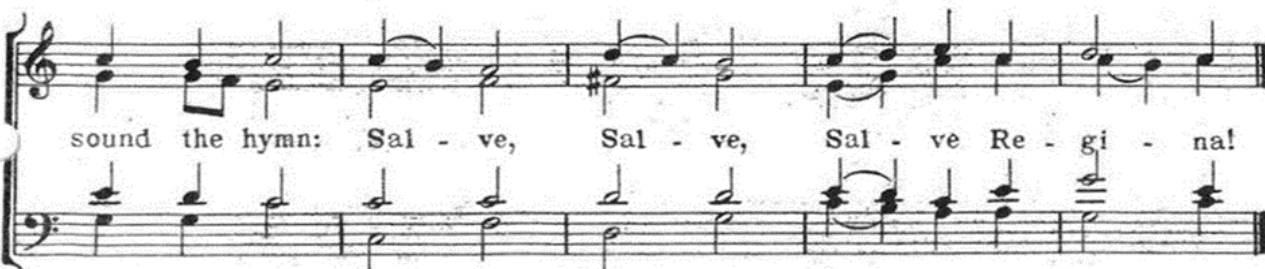
1. Hail! ho - ly Queen en - throned a - bove, O Ma - ri - a! Hail!
 2. Our life, our sweet - ness here be - low, O Ma - ri - a! Our
 3. To thee we cry poor sons of Eve, O Ma - ri - a! To
 4. Turn then most gra - cious Ad - vo - cate, O Ma - ri - a! Tow'rd
 5. When this our ex - ile is com - plete, O Ma - ri - a! Show



1. Moth - er of mer - cy and of love,
 2. hope in sor - row and in woe,
 3. thee we sigh, we mourn, we grieve, O Ma - ri - a! Tri - umph all ye
 4. us thine eyes com - pas - sion - ate,
 5. us Thy Son, our Je - sus sweet,



Che - ru - bim, Sing with us ye Se - ra - phim, Heav'n and earth re -



sound the hymn: Sal - ve, Sal - ve, Sal - ve Re - gi - na!

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Hymn”

Caleb Simper

*It is the custom of this parish to kneel or remain seated in prayer and reflection during the Organ Postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Herman & DeNell Hickman.

Parish Fellowship is sponsored by the Cynthia Goines & Desmond Goines

~

INTERCESSIONS



- **Parishioners:** Charles W. Blakely, Gary Bowden, John Bowden, Damion Cokley, Patricia Cokley, Gloria Eaddy, Eddie Glenn, Cynthia Goines, Robert Green, Yvonne Hall, Daryl Hammonds, Jr., Desmond Hammonds, Valencia Hammonds, Tarnez Hickman, Justin Hickmon, LaToya Hickmon, Levi Johnson, Sr., James McLemore, Mary McLemore, Marie Martin, Gwendolyn Meadows, Carmen Murray, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Cassandra Sims, Peyton Parker-Smith, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker
- **Family & Friends:** Ingrid Dowdell, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Brent Johnson, Katherine Robinson, Mattie Anderson-Roberson, Theodora Washington, Tia Hicks
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...** St. Stephen's, Ridgeway; St. John's, Columbia; St. John's, Winnsboro; St. John's, Congaree; St. John's, Hopkins
- **Birthdays...** Daryl Hammonds, Jr. (21st), Stacey Wilson (21st), Christina Caldwell (22nd), Alexis Jacobs (24th), John T. Bowden III, (26th), Jean Patterson (27th).
- **Anniversaries...**
- **Births...** Madison Renee Ortiz (4th great-grandchild of Patricia Ancrum)
- **Deaths...** Lenora Cooper (friend of DeNell Hickman)
- **Traveling Mercies...** Gwendolyn Spann, Barbara Simmons

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

The Old Testament Lector

Judy Battiste

The Epistoler

Errol Porter

The Gospel Book Bearer

DeNell Hickman

Server

Valencia Hammonds

Intercessor

Karen Castelli

Eucharistic Minister

Cynallyhia Indriago

Videographer

Gary Bowden

Crucifers

Jaylen Caldwell
Herman Hickman

Thurifer

Cory James

Oblation Bearers

Chris Evans
Joseph Evans

Cantor

Shekinah Frieson

Ushers

Rudolph Wise
Venesia Johnson
Gloria Eaddy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOK WINTER SERVICE PROJECT...St. Luke's Parishioners; Please join in with The Daughters of the King for our Winter Service Project. We are asking for winter items for the Rapid Shelter for (Women/Men) of Columbia, during the month of December/January. The Shelter needs: (coats, hats, handwarmers, gloves, scarves, thermal socks and blankets) A large black and yellow bin will be placed in the Narthex, **Sunday, December 7, 2025 – January 7, 2026.** Thank you and God's Blessings. The Mildred S. Murray Chapter; Corliss Wise & Beverly Ray.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHORISTERS... Extra choristers will be needed for the Christmas Eve Mass. Please consider making a donation.

CONFIRMATION/REAFFIRMATION/RECEPTION...Anyone desiring the Rite of Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church is asked to contact the Rector. Confirmation classes will be held during the Lenten season.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP...Anyone baptized person who wants to transfer their membership to St. Luke’s is asked to contact the Rector.

BAPTISM...Anyone interested in baptism for themselves (not previously baptized) or a child is asked to contact the Rector.

SECURITY.... Parishioners, in light of recent events in our nation and city, the importance of security cannot be taken lightly. Please consider giving a donation for Security so that we may be proactive ant not reactive.

ST. LUKE’S CHORAL SCHOLARS & BLAKELY-ROBINSON MUSIC FUND...Your contributions are always appreciated and needed more than ever. Contributions to these funds help to secure choristers & instrumentalists for our Sunday services as well as special services: funerals, weddings, etc. It is because of your continued generous contributions that we are able present glorious choral & instrumental music to the glory of God. Please consider contributing towards this fund.

DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

DECEMBER	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
21 st (Sunday)	The Fourth Sunday of Advent The Holy Eucharist: Rite I	10:00am
22 nd (Monday)		
23 rd (Tuesday)	The Greening of the Church	
	Altar Guild Preparations for Christmas Eve	5:30pm-6:30pm Griffin Hall
24 th (Wednesday)	The Eve of the Nativity The Holy Eucharist: Rite II w/the Blessing of the Crèche Choir & Brass (?)	9:00pm-11:00pm Security Provided
	Christmas Eve Fellowship	11:00pm-Midnight Special Events Committee

		~ Security Provided
25 th (Thursday)	CHRISTMAS DAY	
26 th (Friday)	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
27 th (Saturday)	4 th Saturday Feeding	12:00pm-1:00pm Distributed at the Griffin Hall Entrance
28 th (Sunday)	The First Sunday after Christmas Day The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am
29 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
30 th (Tuesday)	Rector's Vacation Day	
31 st (Wednesday)	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	

Music Acknowledgements & Permission for Use

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

H. Walford Davies

from *Psalms Made Singable*

“Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth”

Richard Shephard

SJMP 22471

Gospel Acclamation

from *The Lyric Gospel Acclamations*

Tony Alonzo

The Nicene Creed (Rite 1)

arr. David Pizarro

“Hail Holy Queen” (descant)

Organist:

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

Chicago, IL

Service music

Opening Acclamation, *Trisagion*, the Great Amen, *Sursum corda*,
anctus, *The Lord's Prayer*, Permission by RiteSong online music library
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In Memoriam

Kitty Lou Dade, age 91, of Weston, Florida, formerly of Detroit, Michigan and Columbia, South Carolina, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2025. Born November 5, 1934, in Atchison, Kansas, she was the daughter of William Herbert and America Wallingford.

She is survived by her children Karen Renee, Sharon Denise, and Malcolm III; granddaughters Rayone' and Ashley (Hayden); siblings Maurice (Patricia), Warren, and Dorothy.

A brief committal service will be held at The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in Detroit, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Cathedral of St. Paul in Detroit, MI or St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Marian hymns are Christian songs of praise and devotion dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, used in Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican traditions during services, especially in May (Month of Mary) and for Christmas; popular examples include "Ave Maria," "Salve Regina," "Immaculate Mary," and the ancient "Magnificat," focusing on her purity, Queenship, and role as Mother of God.

Popular Marian Hymns

- **"Ave Maria"**: Variations by Bach/Gounod, Schubert, and traditional plainsong versions are common.
- **"Immaculate Mary"**: Also known as the Lourdes Hymn, celebrating Mary's Immaculate Conception.
- **"Salve Regina" (Hail Holy Queen)**: An ancient antiphon, used in liturgy for centuries.
- **"Magnificat"**: Mary's own song from Luke 1:46-55, a foundational Marian hymn.

Salve Regina: This beautiful hymn is also known by its English name Hail Holy Queen. In 1218 the Cistercians adopted it as a daily processional chant and in 1251 as an ending to Compline. The Dominicans and the Franciscans also adopted it around this same time and the Carmelites used it for a while in place of the last Gospel at Mass. Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241) ordered it to be chanted after Compline on Fridays. From the 14th century down to today it has been a part of Compline for the Latin Rite. Traditionally this antiphon is recited at Compline from Trinity Sunday until Advent.

The *Magnificat* (Latin: *[My soul] magnifies*) — also known as the *Song of Mary* or the *Canticle of Mary* — is frequently sung (or spoken) liturgically in Christian services. It is one of the eight most ancient Christian hymns and perhaps the earliest Marian hymn. Its name comes from the first word of the Latin version of the canticle's text, which is taken directly from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:46-55) where it is spoken by the Virgin Mary upon her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth.

Ave Maria (Latin for "Hail Mary") refers to the traditional Christian prayer to the Virgin Mary, famously set to music by composers like Franz Schubert (as part of "Ellen's Third Song") and Bach/Gounod, becoming a beloved sacred piece for weddings, funerals, and worship, though it also refers to other works, places (Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, FL), and even a 1984 French film.

The Prayer

- **Origin:** Derived from the Biblical greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary.
- **Text (Latin):** Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.
- **Meaning:** "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

“The Hanging of the Greens”

"Greening of the Church" in the Episcopal tradition refers to two main things: a beloved annual holiday tradition of decorating with evergreens for Advent/Christmas, and a deeper commitment to Creation Care/environmental justice championed by groups like the Green Caucus, focusing on stewardship of God's creation through advocacy and action. The holiday practice dates back centuries, symbolizing life in winter, while the modern movement integrates ecological mission with faith, influencing policy and parish life.

The Holiday Tradition (Greening the Sanctuary)

- **What it is:** A joyful, community event where volunteers decorate the church with garlands, wreaths, and trees using fresh evergreens (pine, holly, ivy) for the Christmas season.
- **When:** Typically, on a Saturday in early December, before Advent/Christmas services.
- **Why:** Evergreens symbolize victory over winter and eternal life, a tradition with ancient roots that early Christians adopted to signify Christ's presence.
- **How:** Parishioners gather, hang greens, make arrangements, share cookies and cider, and create a festive, fragrant atmosphere.

SERMON NOTES/QUESTIONS/ETC.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204
(803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

Class of 2025
Judy Battiste, *Jr. Warden*
Deadra Bowden
DeNell Hickman
Jean Indriago

Class of 2026
Yvonne Hall
Daryl Hammonds
Joni James
Errol Porter, *Sr. Warden*

Class of 2027
Angela Blalock
Robert Green
Joseph Ray
Rudolph Wise

~

Patricia Ancrum, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Sheryl D. Belcher, *Parish Secretary*

~

Karen Castelli, *Website Administrator*
Shauna Hicks, *Newsletter Editor*
Valerie Riley, *Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry*

~

Patricia Cokley, *Parish Treasurer*
Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., *Asst. Parish Treasurers*
Sheryl D. Belcher, *Assoc. Parish Treasurer*

stlukescolumbia@gmail.com (Email)
www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia

<http://www.stlukescolasc.org> (Website)
YouTube: @Fr.Raphiell6290

“The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy.”
Louie Crew, author of *101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*