

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah

The Episcopal Church for Myrtle Beach
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
7 December 2025 AD, 10:00 a.m.



Box 70367, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
4221A N. Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

The Rev. Jim Craig, Celebrant



Lessons and Carols with the Holy Eucharist

Welcome! We warmly welcome all who join us in worship and invite you to join us afterwards for refreshments & fellowship in the Upper Room. If you need pastoral care, please email Fr. John at lakesinai@comcast.net. If you would like the Intercessory Prayer Team to lift up yourself, family, friends, or circumstances fill out a prayer request card available on the Welcome Table and place in the red box. All requests are confidential.

Please let us know you visited by signing the visitor register in the back of the church so we may get to know you better. If you are interested in getting to know us better, please include your email or phone.

NOTES: BCP is The Book of Common Prayer, the red book in the pew. Feel free to quietly ask a neighbor for guidance if you are “lost” at any point during worship. Gluten-free communion wafers are available. Let an usher or acolyte know prior to the start of worship if possible.

The Word of God

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

INTROIT *Comfort, comfort ye my people* (sung by the choir)

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

ENTRANCE HYMN *Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden väg för Herran)* (H 65)

THE BIDDING TO KEEP FESTIVAL AND PRAYER

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson - Zephaniah 3:14-18

God is in your midst and gives the victory

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Stuttgart)* (H 66, v. 1, 2 & 3)

The Second Lesson - Jeremiah 23:5-8

God will raise up a king who will rule wisely and righteously

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt', but 'As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them.' Then they shall live in their own land.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *The angel Gabriel from heaven came (Gabriel's Message)* sung by the Choir

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a bless'd Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Â
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

The Third Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-15

Promise that God will give us a sign

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.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (H 56, v. 3 & 4)

The Fourth Lesson - Baruch 4:36--5:9

The scribe urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *People Look East*

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The Fifth Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-9

The King of Righteousness shall come to bring peace

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *There Shall Come Forth a Shoot from Jesse*, Hal H. Hopson (sung by the Choir)

There shall come forth a shoot from Jesse,
And a branch shall grow out of his roots.
There shall come forth a shoot from Jesse,
And the spirit of God shall rest on him.
The spirit of wisdom and love,
The spirit of counsel and might,
The spirit of knowledge and truth,
The true gift of the glory of God.
O come Emmanuel, come soon.

based on Isaiah 11:1-2

The Sixth Lesson - Romans 1:1-7

The Good News of Jesus Christ who was descended from David

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL *Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes (Richmond)* (H 72)

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

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

People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Deliver Us, O Lord Our God* *Adrian Batten (c. 1591- c. 1637)

Deliver us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen,
That we may give thanks unto thy holy Name, and make our boast of thy praise.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting and world without end.
And let all the people say Amen.

- *Psalm 106, Vs. 45-46*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Old 100th* (H 380, v. 3)

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.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B (BCP p. 367)

SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy* (Schubert/Proulx) (S 130)

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

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

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

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (BCP p. 364)

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364) *Jesus, Lamb of God (Schubert/Proulx) (S 164)*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN *Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor (Bryn Calfaría) (H 307)*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365 or p. 366)

BLESSING (BCP p. 365)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton) (H 59)*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)