

Welcome to Saint John's Episcopal Church

HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

The Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 7, 2025

TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



Saint John's Church, Mobile

Welcome to Saint John's! If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's or becoming a member of our community, please speak with our priest or call the church office at (251) 479-5474. Our office hours are 9-2pm on Tuesdays. Outside of office hours, or in the event of a pastoral need, you can reach out to Father John Talbert at 205-354-3699. You can also contact us through our website, www.stjohnsmobile.org.

Prelude

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader

The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. (*Isaiah 40:5*)

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reader continues

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall

be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (Luke 3:2b-6)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Song

All stand at introduction to the entrance hymn. The Congregation sings the hymn as the choir and ministers of the assembly enter.

Hymn 75

Ascension

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they per - ish, like
feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says the following, and the people respond.

Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

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.**

The Congregation sings the Trisagion

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: Plainsong, Mode 1; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947); acc. Arthur Rhea (b. 1919). Melody: Copyright © 1985 Bruce E Ford. Accompaniment: Copyright © 1985 Arthur Rhea. Used by permission.

The people remain standing for the Collect of the Day.

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 222

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 Readings

The People are seated. The first lesson, Isaiah 11:1-10, is now read

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The congregation sings Psalm 72:1-7,18-19



- 1 Give the King your justice, O **God**, *
and your righteousness to the King's **Son**;
- 2 That he may rule your people **righteously** *
and the poor with **justice**;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the **people**, *
and the little hills bring **righteousness**.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the **people**; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the **oppressor**.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon **endure**, *
from one generation to **another**.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown **field**, *
like showers that water the **earth**.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous **flourish**, *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no **more**.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of **Israel**, *
who alone does wondrous **deeds**!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for **ever**! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. **Amen**.

The second lesson, Romans 15:4-13, is now read

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the

God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 632

Munich

O Christ, the Word incarnate

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
 3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
 O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christl. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningsches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1807-1847).

The Holy Gospel

All Stand.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The appointed Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12, is now proclaimed.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This 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.’”

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

But 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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do 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. Even 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.

“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. His 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.”

After the Gospel, the Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend John Talbert

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

The People stand as the Celebrant stands and all join in saying:

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 may stand or sit. A minister bids these prayers of the assembly:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive unto to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Congregation may be seated for the announcements.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Congregation is seated for the Offertory

Choir Offertory

A Shoot Shall Come Forth

Text: From Isaiah 11 & 32:18

Music: Richard Horn

The Congregation stands and sings the Presentation Hymn while the ushers bring forward the people's gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts.

Hymn 380

Old 100th

All people that on earth do dwell

Vs 3 only

**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 Great Thanksgiving

BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down on this day from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Congregation sings Sanctus and Benedictus.

Hymn S129

Powell

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



The people stand or sit. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in Glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN**

The Celebrant says

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 Celebrant leads the Congregation in singing the Agnus Dei.

Hymn S161

Hurd

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

The Invitation

The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion.

WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE LORD'S TABLE

IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Persons who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing.

After receiving communion, the Congregation may be seated. Please join in singing the communion hymn

Hymn 323

Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed

1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed, for thy Flesh is
2 Vine of heaven, thy Blood sup-plies this blest cup of

meat in-deed; ev-er may our souls be fed
sac-ri-fice; Lord, thy wounds our heal-ing give,

with this true and liv-ing Bread; day by day with
to thy cross we look and live: Je-sus, may we

strength sup-plied, through the life of him who died.
ev-er be graft-ed, root-ed, built in thee.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 366

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People. The People respond

Amen.

The Congregation stands and sings the retiring processional hymn

Hymn 65

bereden väg för Herran

Prepare the way, O Zion

(see next page)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

The Dismissal

The Celebrant dismisses the saying

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Postlude

THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S:

Today, Dec. 7	10:00AM Holy Eucharist: Advent 2 11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall
Tues.	9:00-1:00pm Office hours
Wed.	6:00PM Choir Practice
Next Sunday, Dec. 14	10:00AM Holy Eucharist: Advent 3 11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall

SAVE THE DATE:

The Christmas eve service will be on December 24, at 4PM.
The Christmas Day service will be on December 25, at 11AM.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are given by
Regina Molyneux
to the glory of God
and in celebration of the lives of
Alec Hunter Beard, Daisy Harvey, and Joe Hannah

SERVING IN TODAY’S LITURGY:

First Lesson Lector.....Paua Ross
Second Lesson Lector..... Helen Guthrie
IntercessorJanet Buckley
Lay Eucharistic MinistersConnie McLean & Kathe Gieseler
Altar Guild..... Lee Dorsey & Kristen Turner
Vestry Tellers.....Janet Buckley & Kathe Gieseler
Assisting MinisterLee Dorsey
Acolyte Emma Talbert
Digital Evangelist Kristen Turner

RECENT ATTENDANCE:

31	November 16, Pentecost 23
40	November 23, Pentecost 24
36	November 30, Advent 1

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, WHICH WILL BE DIRECTED BY OUR OWN LILLY TALBERT. SIGN UP SHEETS ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALL.

PLEDGE CARDS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 14. PLEASE GET THEM IN ON TIME SO THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CAN PREPARE THE BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR.

POINSETTIA CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHAIRS. THEY ARE \$20 EACH. PLEASE FILL THEM OUT AND TURN THEM IN BY DECEMBER 21.

P PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We lift up to you members of this church family, especially:

Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Neva Bache, David Rich, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, and Mary Catherine Warren.

We pray for our family and friends, especially:

Steve and Janice Garner, Frank Brown, JoAnn McPhearson, Chris Lion, Jeff Bishop, Colin Guthrie, Alilee Pillman, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine Evans, Calvert Johnson, Brenda Goolsby, Larry DeBert, Anne Redd, Donnie Chestang, Louis Bell, Lester Taylor: Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Joey Adams, Judy Lynch, John Knight, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson.

THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN'S

The Rt. Reverend J. Russell. Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Reverend John Talbert, *Rector* (frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org)

Mr. Louis F. Daniel, *organist & choir director* (music@stjohnsmobile.org)

Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *financial secretary* (finance@stjohnsmobile.org)

Dr. Nikki Shaw, *office volunteer* (office@stjohnsmobile.org)

THE VESTRY AND WARDENS OF ST. JOHN'S

Class of 2026: Ms. Helen Guthrie. *and* Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *clerk*

Class of 2027: Ms. Connie McLean, *senior warden, and* Mr. Eddy Velaski.

Class of 2028: Mr. Hugh Tomlin, *junior warden, and* Ms. Janet Buckley
and Ms. Cindy Gass, *treasurer.*