Welcome to Saint John's Episcopal Church

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 21, 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.

Reader 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Luke 1:39-42)

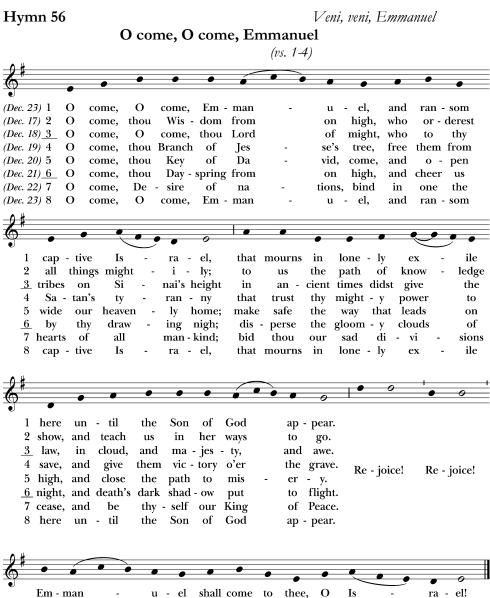
THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Song

Em - man

el

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



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Is

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says the following, and the people respond.

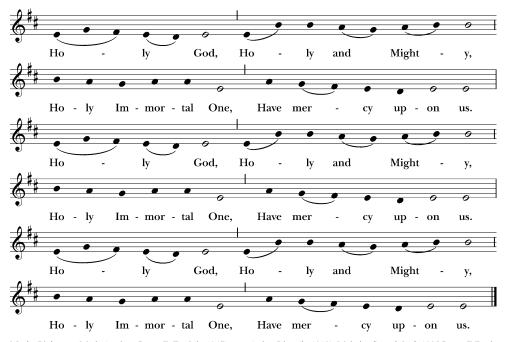
Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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



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.

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 Readings

The People are seated. The first lesson, Isaiah 7;10-16, is now read

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."

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The congregation sings Psalm 80:1-7,16-18



- 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 your**self**.
- 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, is now read

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 Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 632 Munich

O Christ, the Word incarnate



Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: Munich, melody from Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christl. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningisches 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 1:18-25, is now proclaimed.

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.

After the Gospel, the Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend John Talbert

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The Nicene Creed

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

Remember, O thou man

Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1633)

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

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The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

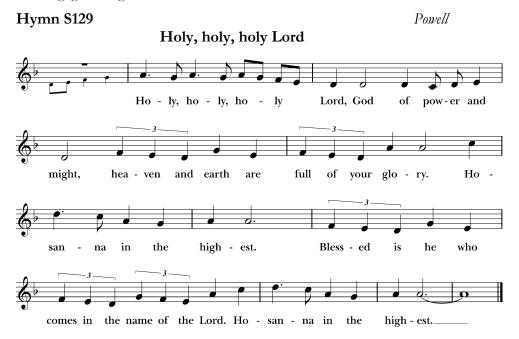
People We lift them to the Lord.

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. because you sent your 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 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.



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.

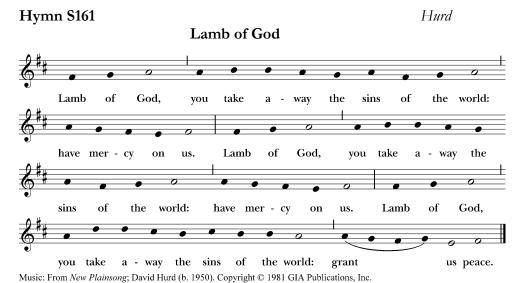
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People AMEN

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.



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





Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

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.

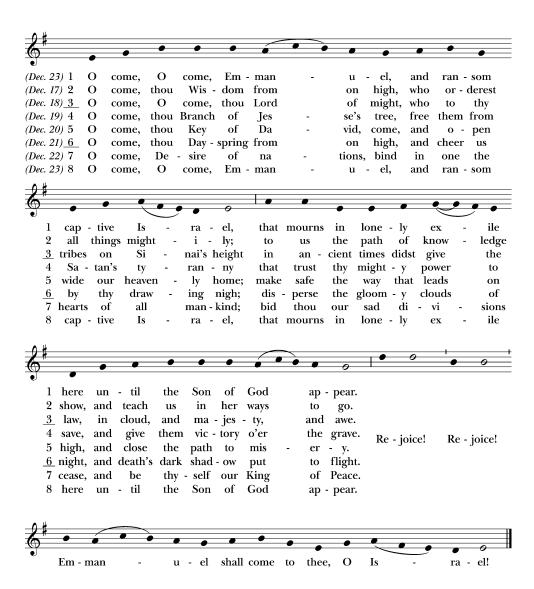
The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People. The People respond **Amen.**

The Congregation stands and sings the retiring processional hymn

Hymn 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 5-8)



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. 21	10:00AM Holy Eucharist: Advent 4 11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall 11:30AM Rehearsal for Christmas pageant
Wed., Dec. 24.	3:40PM Christmas carols 4:00PM Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve 5:15PM Fellowship time in the Great Hall
Thurs., Dec.25	11:00AM Holy Eucharist Christmas Day
Next Sunday, Dec. 28	10:00AM Holy Communion: Christmas 1 11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall

SERVING IN TODAY'S LITURGY:

First Lesson Lector	Jan Joseph
Second Lesson Lector	Leslie Talbert
Intercessor	Kathe Gieseler
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Lee Dorsey & Kathe Gieseler
Altar Guild	Irene Yeager
Vestry Tellers	Hugh Tomlin & Eddy Velaski
Assisting Minister	•
Acolyte	
Digital Evangelist	

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are given by
Kathe Gieseler
to the glory of God
and in loving memory of
Ruth Love Morgret

RECENT ATTENDANCE:

36	November 30, Advent 1
37	December 7, Advent 2
35	December 14, Advent 3

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.

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*.