

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 23, 2018
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II – 10:30 A.M.

The Service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer.

Prelude: *Meine Seele erhebt den Herren*, BWV 648
(My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord)

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

THE WORD OF GOD

The Advent wreath is lit as the Choir sings the Introit.

Introit *Rorate, coeli*

Plainsong, Mode 7

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Savior. The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

– Isaiah 45:8, Psalm 19

Hymn 54: “Savior of the nations, come!”

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, *stand*

Opening Sentences

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Priest: 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

David Sinden (b. 1982)

The musical score for the Trisagion is written on three staves. The first staff is for the organ, with a key signature of two flats and a 2/2 time signature. It begins with a rest, followed by a series of notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, 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mor-tal One, Have mer - cy u - pon us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy u - pon us.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

Lector: A Reading from The Letter to the Hebrews. (10: 5-10) *sit*

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

All: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn 268: “Ye who claim the faith of Jesus”

Julion, *stand*

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. (1: 39-45)

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

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. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayers of the People

Lector: In this season of Advent, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

kneel

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's healing in every act of forgiveness, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That the leaders of the church, in both word and deed, may show forth God's love for the world, remembering especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Wayne, our Bishop, and Luke, Kelly and Joseph, our clergy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That all in any need, especially those served by our ministry partners Beyond Housing, Episcopal City Mission, The Haven of Grace, and Bravely, may receive God's mercy and grace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That all who suffer from sickness of body, mind or spirit may know the power of God's love, especially Eve Ballman, Bruce Carvell, The Drier Family, Bill Lacey, Ruth Noakes and Karmen Selby, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That all who have died may find eternal life in God's loving presence, remembering especially Bill Engelsmann, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace. And accept our thanks and praise for all your gifts so generously given, make ready our hearts for your coming, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

The Absolution

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: **Amen.**

Exchanging the Peace

p. 360, *stand*

The children join the Service from their Sunday School classes.

Announcements

sit

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized persons are invited to receive Communion.

If you would like to receive gluten-free bread, let the priest know at the altar rail.

At the Offertory, Carol

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

– 14th cent. German, tr. Catherine Winkworth

The Presentation (*Hymn 76, stanza 5*)

Winchester New, *stand*

**All: All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361

Sanctus and Benedictus (*Hymnal S 129*)

p. 362

kneel

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

Administration of the Sacrament

sit

Carol: Gabriel's Message

Ronald Arnatt (1930–2018)

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!*

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!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers
foretold,
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–

"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

– Basque carol, trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Hymn 60: "Creator of the stars of night"

Conditor alme siderum

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 365, *kneel*

The Blessing

Hymn 57: “Lo! He comes with clouds descending”

Helmsley, *stand*

The Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary: Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

MUSIC NOTES: Hymn 54 is the famous Advent chorale *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*. It has been heard each of the previous three Sundays of Advent as the subject of one of the organ voluntaries. •

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Bill Engelsmann,
by Nancy, Beth and Lisa.*

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers: Bruce Ryder, Rob Heuermann
Ushers: Susan Schettler, Bruce Mardis
Acolytes: Cate Dressel, Eli Hart, Sawyer Hart, Katie Marks
Acolyte Masters: Jim Gilbert, Sandy Peters
Hospitality: Becky Ragan, Nannette Rich, Ginger Dutton
Altar Guild: Cheryl Gelstein, Susie Wilson, Merrill Buettner
Nancy Grimes, Susan Schettler

PRAYER LIST

For Parishioner: Eve Ballman.

For Family and Friends: Bruce Carvell, The Drier Family, Bill Lacey, Ruth Noakes and Karmen Selby.

For those Committed to Our Ongoing Prayers: Robert Barringer, Patricia Beseda, Donna Brookman, Chris Canepa, Amanda Carstens, Kathy Dacheau, Patricia Drew, Martha Ferguson, Meg Fuller, Jimmy Grimmett, Richard Hamman, Patty Hecker, Paul Johnson, Susan Kerkering, Marcy Kovis, Rick Ledbetter, Sandy Lehrer, Sophia Mandl, Elizabeth Mendoza, Matthew Meinen, Cheryl Meyer, Bryan Miller, Michael Montgomery, Signe Myles, Jeffrey Rixleben, Sarah Roberts, Ray Sellenriek, Dan Singer, Gerald Spencer, Jane St. John, Madeline Tufts, Timothy Vowels and Dick Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDCARE is available in the Little Building from 9:00 until 11:45 a.m.

PARISH BREAKFAST – Come enjoy a hot breakfast in the Undercroft today, served from 8:45 until 10:00. The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family.

RECTOR’S FORUM meets each Sunday morning, 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Undercroft. This morning join Luke Jernagan and David Sinden to explore the theological meaning and power of our favorite Christmas carols!

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – All ages, please join us in Grace Chapel, 10:15 to 10:25 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – Please note the service times:

Monday, Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Pageant
	6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
	11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Carols begin at 10:30 p.m.)
Tuesday, Christmas Day	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – The Christmas offering will be divided among our outreach partners—Beyond Housing, Episcopal City Mission, The Haven of Grace and Bravelly. Please use the special offering envelopes which will be in the pews on Christmas Eve and Day. Thank you for joining us as God calls us to love and serve others in Jesus’ name.

ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS – Playgroup, Woman’s Guild, Searching for God in the Daily News, Thursday Bible Study and Friday morning Prayer Group will not meet this week. The Church Office and buildings will be closed on Wednesday, December 26. The Office will be open December 27-28, and the Finance Office will be open until 1:00 p.m. on December 31st, but all will be closed on January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency after office hours please call the Church Office at 314-993-2306, and press 2 and your call will be forwarded to the clergy.

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST – Please note that there will be no 5:30 Holy Eucharist on December 26th.

NEXT SUNDAY – Worship services next Sunday, December 30th will follow our usual schedule of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. The 10:30 service that day will be a sung service of **Christmas Lessons and Carols. Please join us in the Undercroft for hot chocolate and coffee next Sunday after the 10:30 Service!** There will be child care 9:00-Noon, but no Sunday School, Children’s Chapel, breakfast or Rector’s Forum. All will resume on the usual schedule on January 6th.

YEAR-END OFFERINGS – The Church Office will be open regular hours this Thursday and Friday, December 27-28th. The Finance Office will also be open until Noon on Monday, December 31st to receive your contributions. Please note that **all offerings for 2018 must be postmarked on or before Monday, December 31, 2018.** Anything postmarked with a date of January 1, 2019, or after, will be considered a 2019 contribution. For stock transactions, the “date of gift” must be on or before December 31, 2018. Please consult with your broker to ensure timely delivery. If you need security transfer information, please contact the Church Office or Darlene Horton at 314-993-2306 ext. 104 as soon as possible. Contributions for 2018 may be made by credit card online through 11:59 pm CST on Monday, December 31 via our website at www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give.

JOINT EVENSONG FOR EPIPHANY – Everyone is encouraged to worship at a special Evensong at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 6th at the Church of St. Michael and St. George (6345 Wydown Blvd, Clayton). The St. Peter’s Choir will join with the Choir of St. Michael’s for the third such joint service with our two parishes. This year’s service celebrates the Epiphany with music by Howells, Sowerby, Lehman, and Gabriel Jackson.

EPIPHANY LESSONS AND CAROLS – St. Peter’s Evensong series returns to the second Sunday of the month beginning on January 13th at 5:00 p.m. with a Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany. The service will be sung by the St. Peter’s Singers, with music by North American composers.

FOOD DRIVE – Our monthly food collection will be January 6th. As you shop for groceries, please take the January food list with you for Trinity (CWE) food pantry. The groceries and toiletries most needed are: canned pasta with meat, peanut butter, Ramen noodles, bar soap and toilet tissue.

HELP WANTED – St. Peter’s is looking for a part-time weekend sexton (facility/maintenance assistant). Duties will include set-up and clean-up for worship and events, kitchen duties, and general maintenance. Experience is a plus, but it may also be a great opportunity for someone to learn. Contact Parish Administrator, Janet Rouse, janetr@stpeterseiscopal.org, or 314-993-2306, ext. 102.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23 – 30, 2018

Sunday	12/23		The Fourth Sunday of Advent
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		8:45-10:00	Parish Breakfast – Undercroft
		9:15 a.m.	Rector’s Forum – Undercroft
		10:15 a.m.	Children’s Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Monday	12/24		Christmas Eve
		9a.m.-12:00 Noon	Church Office open
		4:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist
		6:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10:30 p.m.	Carols before the Service
		11:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
Tuesday	12/25		Christmas Day
			Church Office closed
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	12/26		Church Office and Buildings closed
Thurs.-Fri.	12/27-28		Church Office open
Sunday	12/30		The First Sunday after Christmas
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Lessons and Carols
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee and Hot Chocolate – Undercroft