

# ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**The Rev. Will Reller, Celebrant**

**Vision:** "God loves everyone in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit."

**Mission:** "The church on the hill, providing a spiritual home for people to grow in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and sharing this faith with the community and the world."



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C  
December 22, 2024**

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

## The Word of God

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle – Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Priest:** Today we light the first, second, third and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE. The second candle is PEACE. The third candle is JOY, and the Fourth candle is LOVE. *(The candles are lit.)*

**Scripture:** John 13:34 Jesus said to them, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**Prayer: (Said by All) Oving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. AMEN.**

### Opening Hymn:

*“Sing of Mary”*

Hymnal, #277

**Priest:** Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins;

**People:** His mercy endures forever. AMEN.

**Priest:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought 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

### The Confession

**Priest** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept.)*

**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.

**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. AMEN.

### Kyrie: *Missa Emmanuel*

*insert*

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

**Collect:** (Said by all) 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.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Hymn:** *“Lo, How a rose e’er blooming”*

Hymnal, #81

**The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:*** Thanks be to God.

**Canticle 15      The Song of Mary      *Magnificat***

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.

**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.**

**2nd Lesson Hymn:**

***“The Cherry Tree Carol”***

*insert*

### **The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10**

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.

*Reader* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Hymn: TBA**

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45(46-55)**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**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."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon: The Rev. Will Reller**

### **The Prayers of the People: Form IV (BCP page 388)**

Priest: 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. *Silence*  
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. *Silence*  
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. *Silence*  
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. *Silence*  
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. *Silence*  
Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

We commend 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. *Silence*  
Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

Priest: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Peace** *(all stand) Please No Hugging, Peace sign is appropriate*

**Priest:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
AMEN.

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also, with you.**



## The Offertory

### Offertory Anthem

*“Sing We of the Blessed Mother”*

*Hymnal #278*

### Doxology: Hymnal, #380 (Verse 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

### The Holy Communion: Eucharistic Prayer A (Prayer Book, page 361)

#### The Great Thanksgiving *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **Sanctus: (Sung by all) *Missa Emmanuel***

*insert*

*Priest:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Memorial Acclamation: *Missa Emmanuel***

*insert*

*Priest:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

***"The Lord's Prayer" Malotte***

**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 debt, as we forgive our debtors. 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 Breaking of the Bread**

**Litany at the Breaking of the Bread: *Missa Emmanuel***

*insert*

*Priest:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Priest:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Hymn:**

***"Fantasio on Greensleeves"***

*insert*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Said by All)**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen**



**Priest:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. AMEN.

**Recessional Hymn:**

***“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”***

Hymnal, #82

## **The Dismissal**

**Priest:** Alleluia! Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

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

## **Birthdays to Celebrate!**

Fran Neff, Dec 23

Ajah Deng, Dec 28

***When it’s hard to look back, and you’re too afraid to look ahead;  
Look beside you and I will be there.***

## **Prayers**

**"Heavenly Father, I come before you with a heavy heart, seeking hope and strength in times of uncertainty. Help me to trust in your plan and find peace in your presence. Fill us with hope and courage to face each day with faith and perseverance. Amen."**

Terry and Mary Hinton, Deake Hinton, Donna Contraraz-Wetherbee, Judy Sadar, Marlys Harsh, The Reeves Family, Donna Travis, Jay Dewey, Preston Lewis and his mother Wanda Lewis, Crystal Blochler, Tom & Katie Branch, Sally Aigner, Pat Muller, Tim & Carolyn Ohlrogge, Chuck & Rose Hinton, Julia Kouris, Noel & Nina Schloegel, Jim & Donna Potter, Hank Jones, Amie & Connie Navarre, Peggy Supplee, Stephen Nye, Sophie & Diana Zakhem, Melanie Christopher, Ruth Ann Rowley-Manro, Jim & Kathy McKinna, The Hernandez family.

## **Serving Today**

**Celebrant:** **Rev. Will Reller**

Close church: **Steve O’Donnell**

Crucifer/Acolyte: **Sally Aigner**

Chalice Minister: **Sally Aigner & Rae Garrett**

Altar Guild: **Joanna Pask**

Open church: **Steve O’Donnell**

Usher: **Steve O’Donnell**

Lector: **Rae Garrett**

Audio/Visual: **Mike Fields & David Deng**

Music: **Stephen Nye**

*Thank you all for your time and effort. You are truly appreciated!*

# Mark your Calendars

**Tuesday, December 24, 3:00 PM – Christmas Eve, Holy Eucharist with Fr. Will Reller**

**Sunday, December 29, 10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist with Fr. Paul Spurlock**





