

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### December 21, 2025

#### ***Welcome to St. Catherine's***

We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to fill out a visitor card, which can be found on the back of the chair in front of you. Completed cards may be given to a greeter or placed in the collection plate.

“BCP” before a page number refers to the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks. “H” before a page number refers to the blue hymnal. Both are in the pew.

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

#### **Serving Today**

The Rev. Dillon Green, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Kim Traylor, *Vestry Person of the Day*

Pat Tate, LEM/*Crucifer*

Kim Traylor & Denise Armstrong,  
*Counters*

Leila Phillips & Olivia Kennedy,

Cathy Cawthon, *Altar Guild*

*Torchbearers*

Jim Cawthon, *Technology*

Cathy Cawthon, *Lector*

Denise Armstrong, *Greeter*

Amy Tate, *Intercessor*



## Prelude

Entrance Hymn 56 vv. 5-8

O come, O come, Emmanuel

## THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

EOW 50

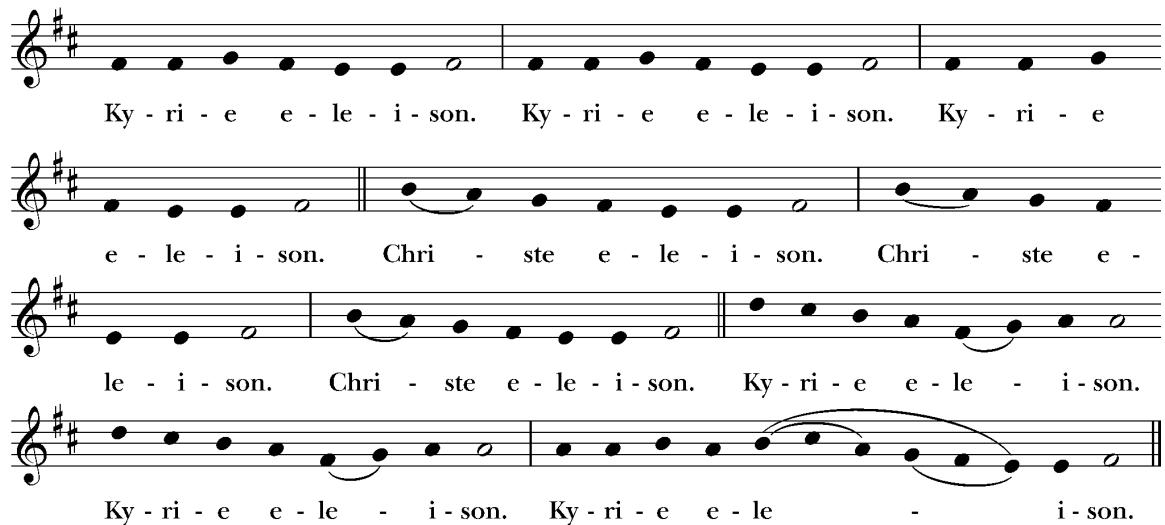
*Celebrant*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People*      You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

The Kyrie



Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son.   Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son.   Ky - ri - e  
e - le - i - son.   Chri - ste   e - le - i - son.   Chri - ste   e -  
le - i - son.   Chri - ste   e - le - i - son.   Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son.  
Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son.   Ky - ri - e   e - le - i - son.

## The Collect of the Day

BCP 233

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 LESSONS

### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*Reader*      A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.”

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*The Psalm will be read responsively by half verse.*

- 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 yourself.**
- 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.**

## Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*Reader* A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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.

*Cantor sings Alleluia; Congregation repeats Alleluia; Cantor sings verse; All repeat Alleluia.*

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G major, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. The top staff is for the Cantor and the bottom staff is for the Congregation. The lyrics are as follows:

Cantor: Al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia.

Congregation: ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Chords: The top staff (Cantor) includes chords G, D, Em, Bm, G, Am7/C, Am7, Bm, and D7. The bottom staff (Congregation) includes chords Em, D, G/B, C, G/B, Am/C, F#%/A, Em/B, Bm, and Em.

The score concludes with a "Fine" at the end of the Em chord.

*Cantor:* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

## The Gospel

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*Deacon*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Christ according to Matthew.  
**People**      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People**      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

**The Rev. Dillon Green**

*A period of silence follows the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed**, *please stand as able.*

**BCP 358**

**The Prayers of the People, Form I**

**BCP 383**

**Concluding Collect**

**The Confession and Absolution**

**BCP 360**

**The Peace**

**BCP 360**

**The Announcements**

**Offertory Hymn 265**

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came**

*As the offerings are brought to the altar, standing as you are able, the following is sung*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly host.**

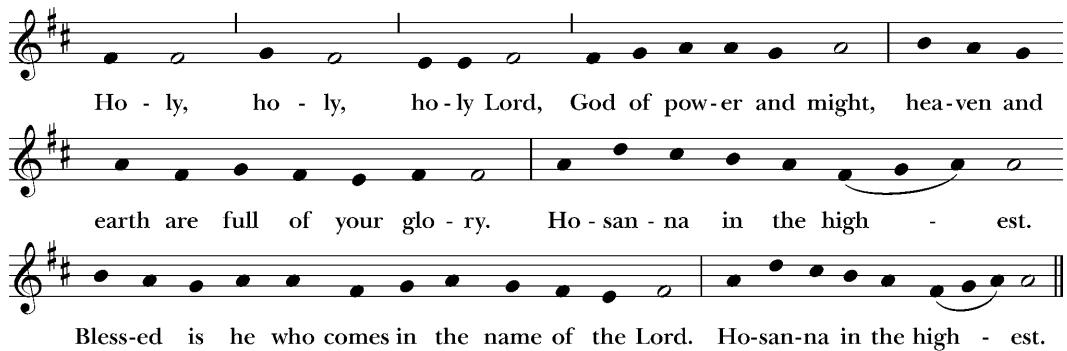
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

### Sanctus



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 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

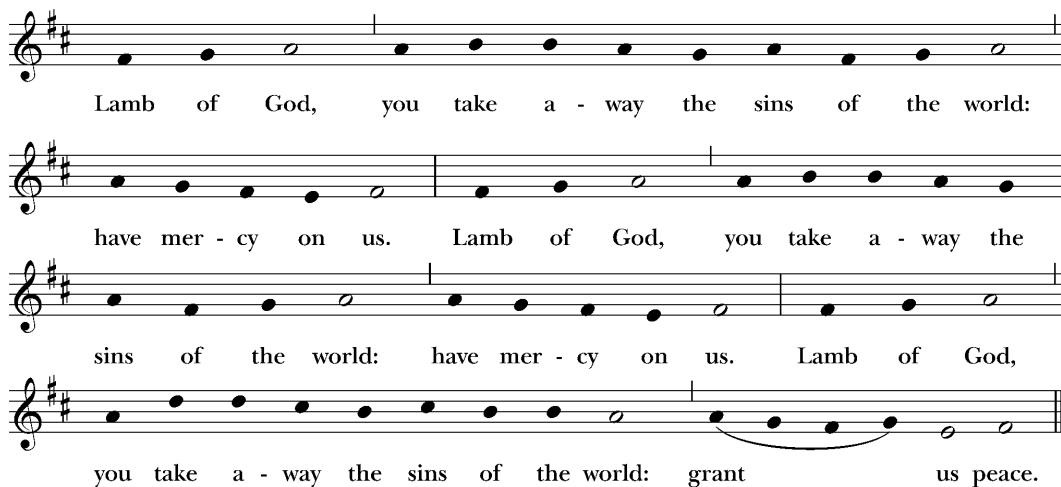
## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

## The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

## The Fraction Anthem



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.

## The Invitation

**BCP 364**

## Communion Hymn 54

**Savior of the nations, come!**

## Post-Communion Prayer

**BCP 365**

## The Blessing

**BOS 11**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Hymn 66

**Come, thou long expected Jesus**

## Dismissal

**BCP 366**

## Postlude

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*Please join us following the service for coffee hour!*

*Today's flowers are given by Sasha Johns!*

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd.

We pray for Kairos Prison Ministry and Kairos Outside, for ministries for infants and children, and for children of clergy. We pray also for the Church of the Nativity, Huntsville.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Clydene, Steven, Heather, Wendy, Angel, Marti, Joseph, Tracy, John, Sue, Addie, Wanda, Bill, Alice, Claire, Amy, Sasha, Elizabeth, Sharon, Elizabeth, Vicki, Roger, Will, Addi, and Bethany Shae.

We pray those who serve in the military, especially John Morris.

We give thanks for all who celebrated birthdays these past two weeks, especially Michelle Nivens and Ann Watts. May they grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.

## **S A V E   T H E   D A T E S**

**Evening Prayer cancelled this Wednesday in place of Christmas  
Eucharist!**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>—Christmas Eucharist at 4:30 pm!**

### **Stewardship Season!**

Please pick up a pledge card beside the door and return it to the office, to Father Dillon, or place it in the offering plate as it goes by during the service.

## NOTES

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## Our Mission

*To seek, love, and serve God through worship, education, and service and to share the redeeming love of Christ with the world.*

## Our Vision

*St. Catherine's, the Episcopal Church in Chelsea, is a welcoming and inclusive family called by Christ to receive and share God's love.*

## Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry  
*Bishop of Alabama*

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior  
*Assisting Bishop*

The Rev. Dillon Green  
*Rector*

The Rev. Clyde Pearce  
*Deacon*

Dr. Matthew West, Ph.D., *Organist/Choirmaster*  
Julie Seal  
*Parish Administrator*

## St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

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[www.stcatherinesal.org](http://www.stcatherinesal.org)

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