

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 7, 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*

Sharon Lewis, *Vestry Person of the Day*

Scott Reimer, LEM/ *Crucifer*

Gracie Dominguez & Kaiser

Dominguez, *Torchbearers*

Michelle Caiola, *Lector*

Carol Dotson, *Intercessor*

Sharon Lewis & Julie Kennedy,

*Counters*

Wanda Wheeler, *Altar Guild*

Bill Traylor, *Technology*

Julie Kennedy, *Greeter*



## Prelude

Entrance Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

## 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.

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 LESSONS**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Reader*        A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

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

- 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.**

## Second Reading

**Romans 15:4-13**

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

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.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Fine*

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

## The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

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.”

*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 75**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

*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.**

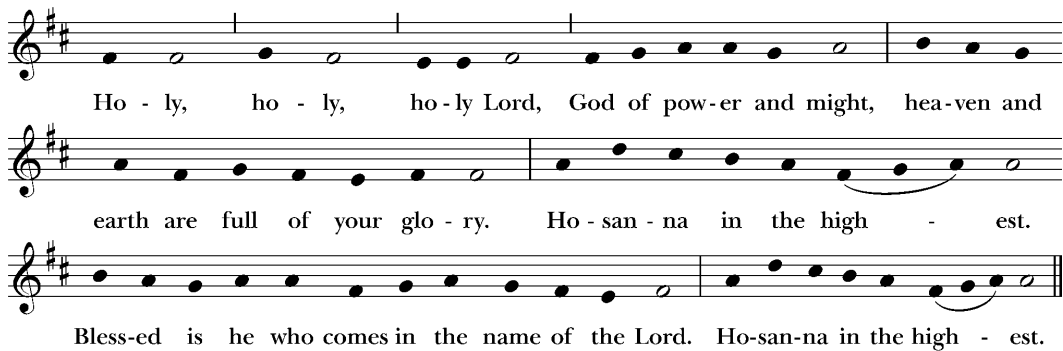
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

# 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.

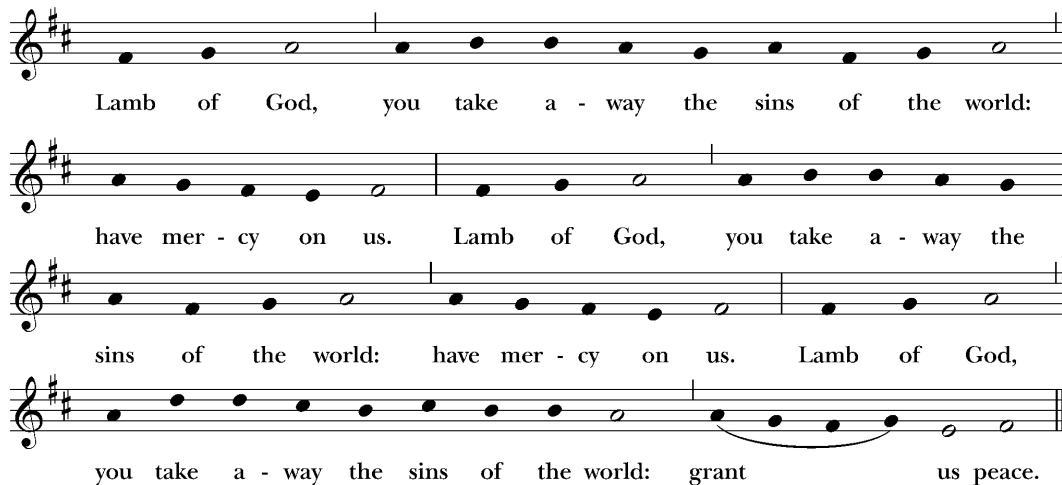
The Lord's Prayer

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 321**

**My God, thy table now is spread**

**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 67**

**Comfort, comfort ye my people**

**Dismissal**

**BCP 366**

**Postlude**

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Please join us following the service for coffee hour  
sponsored by Wanda and Bill Wheeler!

Today's flowers are given by Wanda and Bill Wheeler!

## NOTES

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

We pray for the Diocesan Department of Liturgy and Music, and for  
seminarians graduating in December.

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, Brian Cruz and his family, Sharon, Elizabeth, Vicki, Madison, Tom, 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 this week, especially Alex Lewis, Hayden Molloy, Ava Traylor, and Phillip Dewitt. 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 every Wednesday at 6:00 pm**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>—The Bishop's Visit with Confirmation!**

**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.

## **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 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**

Church Office—205-618-8367

642 King's Home Drive

P.O. Box 577

Chelsea, AL 35043

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

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