

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Rev. George Adamik, Celebrant Devin McGinnis, Homilist HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 A.M. SERVICE DECEMBER 24, 2023

Prelude

Processional

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Verses 1-4 Carol Yeargin, Organist Hymn 56

# Liturgy of the Word

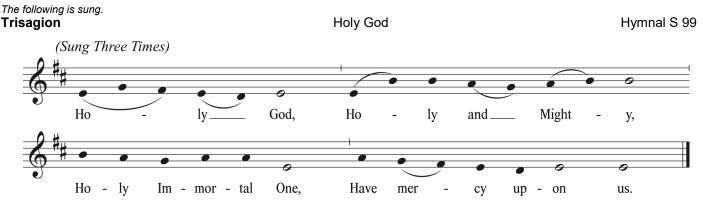
## **Opening Acclamation**

The Celebrant says

People Blessed are you, holy and living One. You come to your people and set them free.

The Celebrant says

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*.



## **Collect of the Day**

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet 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.* 

## **Children's Processional**

Prepare the Way, O Zion Hymn 65 Verse 1 Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

## Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from Second Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my

people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

#### Canticle 15 The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

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 for ever. Amen.

### Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith--to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Gradual

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Verses 1 and 2

### Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Homily

Hymn 265

#### **Nicene Creed**

All who are able, stand.

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.

#### Prayers of the People

People's Response: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

#### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

#### All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

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.* 

PeaceCelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

#### Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found on the giving card in the back of the pews. At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Offertory

The Salutation Carol St. Paul's Choir

#### **Offertory Response**

Eucharistic Prayer 2

 The people remain standing.

 Celebrant
 The Lord be with you.

 Description
 And along with you.

And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**BCP 360** 

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Enriching Our Worship 1

BCP 360



#### The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*.

#### The Celebrant then continues

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

#### Lord's Prayer

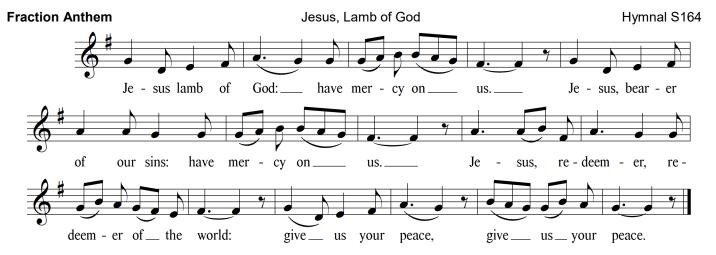
People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

BCP 364



### **Holy Communion**

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail.

If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you.

If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup.

If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is also available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

#### The Communion Music

Creator of the Stars of Night Hymn 60 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Hymn 66

If you are at home or otherwise unable to take communion, you may say the following prayer.

#### Spiritual Communion Prayer

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

## Final Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food as we hear your Word proclaimed and gather at your holy Table. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### Blessing

Recessional	O Come, O Come Emmanuel
	Verses 5-8

Hymn 56

#### Dismissal

Deacon	Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
People	Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### Postlude

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# **Christmas Season 2023**

A Christmas Message from the Rector:

In the darkness of that night in Bethlehem, a new light was born. And scripture says that the magi who sought and searched for that light, upon discovering it, went home a new way. They couldn't return by the old way.

As we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation of the Christ in our darkened world of war and divisiveness, may the light of this Christmas lead us to a new way.

I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas.

George

**New to St. Paul's? Visiting us for Christmas?** Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Welcome Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat with Greeters and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church. Contact Mary Kintz, Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more.

Children's Chapel, Sunday School and all Youth activities resume January 7.

Children's Communion Class begins January 21.

Coffee Hour and Adult Formation Series "The Gospel of Mark" resume January 7.

**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed the week of December 26; office hours resume on January 2. Please remember that donations postmarked through December 31 will be credited to 2023 for tax purposes, regardless of the date received.

**January Adult Formation Book Study on Zoom:** Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom starting January 3 for a discussion of "Breathing Under Water" by Richard Rohr. Learn more on the website and register by contacting Annie Ritter at anniecorn60@gmail.com.

Please visit our website for more information about our community:



St. Paul's Website

MISSION STATEMENT Worship. Serve. Grow.

Church Phone: 919-467-1477 Fax: 919-467-0152 Web Site: www.stpaulscary.org

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