



The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**  
Sunday, 24 December 2023 • 9:30 AM  
Pensacola, Florida • Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The People's responses are in **bold italics**.

Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*.

Service music (marked "S") is found at the front of the Hymnal.

Other page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer*.

### Worship Information

**Welcome to Christ Church!** We especially welcome our visitors and newcomers and ask that you fill out a visitor card so that we can thank you for coming.

**For Children** – Children are always welcome during service. There is a Kid's Korner with books and activities at the entrance.

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### Opening Voluntary

*"O come, O come, Emmanuel"*

— Frank Speller (1938-2017)

### Hymn in Procession

Hymn 56, stz. 1-4 — *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

### Welcome

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD – BCP 355

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

### Hymn of Praise: *Trisagion*

*The Hymn is sung three times.*

### Hymnal S 102

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* 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. **Amen.**

*The People may be seated.*

### The First Lesson — 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 15

*The Song of Mary Magnificat*

### BCP 91

*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.**

### The Second Lesson — Romans 16:25-27

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.  
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

*The People stand for the Sequence Hymn and the Gospel.*

### Sequence Hymn

**Hymn 265** — *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

### The Gospel — Luke 1:26-38

*Priest* 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.

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

### The Sermon

*The Rev. Dr. Michael Hoffman*

*Silence may be kept.*

### The Nicene Creed *The People stand.*

**BCP 358**

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: Form IV

**BCP 388**

*Celebrant* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Leader* 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.**

*Leader* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, especially the Middle East, 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.**

*Leader* 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.**

*Leader* 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. We pray especially for the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We commend to your mercy all who have died (*especially...*), 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.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*Silence may be kept.*

*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.**

**The Peace** *All stand.*  
*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements

## The Offertory

### Offertory Anthem

*Dixit Maria – Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)*

Dixit Maria ad angelum:  
Ecce ancilla Domini,  
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

*Mary said to the Angel:  
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord,  
let it be done to me, according to your word.*

### At the Presentation Hymnal 380:3

*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.*

*At the presentation of the monetary gifts,  
Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.  
*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP 361

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

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *Here a Proper Preface is said.*  
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People* Hymnal S 124  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*  
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:

*Celebrant and People*  
**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*  
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 for ever. **AMEN.**

### The Lord's Prayer

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

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*  
*A period of silence is kept.*  
*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Then is sung*  
**Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei**

Hymnal S 157

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:  
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.*

### **The Communion**

*Christians of all ages (regardless of where you were baptized)  
are welcome to receive Holy Communion. • Please come forward  
to the Altar Rail, being careful of the step just before the rail. •  
The rail fills from the center, and please don't hesitate to cross  
to the other side if there is space. • Communion is available in  
two kinds. If you choose not to receive communion in one or both  
kinds, please cross both arms across your chest and the priest  
will offer a blessing. • If you choose to receive communion in one  
kind, know Christ is fully present and all benefits of the Eucharist  
are fully received. • If you receive the chalice, please assist the  
chalice bearer by guiding the base of the cup. Or you may choose  
to intinct in the chalice. • If you need a gluten-free wafer, please  
cross one arm across your chest. There is no separate chalice. •  
If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in  
the pew, please notify the ushers at the door.*

### **Communion Hymn**

**Hymn 60** — *Creator of the stars of night*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 365**

*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.*

### **Prayer for Mission**

**BCP 101**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the  
hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the  
reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that  
we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do  
not know you to the knowledge and love of you: for the honor  
of your name. Amen.*

### **The Blessing**

### **Hymn in Procession**

**Hymn 56, stz. 5-8** — *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

**Dismissal Response:** *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### **Closing Voluntary**

*"O come, O come Emmanuel" — Wilbur Held (1914-2015)*



## **CHRIST CHURCH PARISH**

Wright Street at Palafox, PO Box 12683,  
Pensacola, Florida 32591-2683 Phone: (850) 432-5115  
e-mail: [chronicle@christ-church.net](mailto:chronicle@christ-church.net) web: [www.christ-church.net](http://www.christ-church.net)

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The Rev. Katie Gillett, *Associate*  
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The Rev. Walter Kindergan  
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