

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021, 10:15 AM

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO OUR EUCHARIST SERVICE!  
The entire service is printed below;  
you'll need no books or other materials to follow along.

The Priest or Leader will say the items in regular type.  
**You are invited to say aloud the items printed in boldface.**

PRELUDE

AWAY IN A MANGER  
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S BELL CHOIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All stand and join in singing,

OPENING HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 #61

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!"      A      voice      a - stounds      us,      the  
2 Zi - on hears      the      watch - men      sing - ing;      her  
3 Lamb of God,      the      heavens      a - dore      you;      let

shout      of      ram - part - guards      sur - rounds      us:      "A -  
heart      with      joy - ful      hope      is      spring - ing,      she  
saints      and      an - gels      sing      be - fore      you,      as

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system covers the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in  
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."  
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philip Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
 Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

**People: His mercy endures for ever.**

Presider: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, -

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, -

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: 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.

**All: Amen.**

The People are seated for the lessons.

## THE FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

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.**

The Canticle will be sung by the choir.

## 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.

## THE SECOND READING

## HEBREWS 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 #265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

“All hail,” said he, “thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
“my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name.”  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,” Glo - ri - a!

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The People stand as they are able for the Gospel,

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-45

The Gospeler introduces the Gospel and the People respond,

**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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

At the invitation of the Preacher, the People are seated.

THE HOMILY

THE REV. CANON MICHAEL SPENCER

THE NICENE CREED

**All: 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.**

All stand or kneel as they are able.

#### **THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**Priest:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.

**All:** **Amen.**

Priest: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:14, 15*

## OFFERTORY

## AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD FROM "MESSIAH", HANDEL

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

All stand or kneel as they 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 him thanks and praise.**

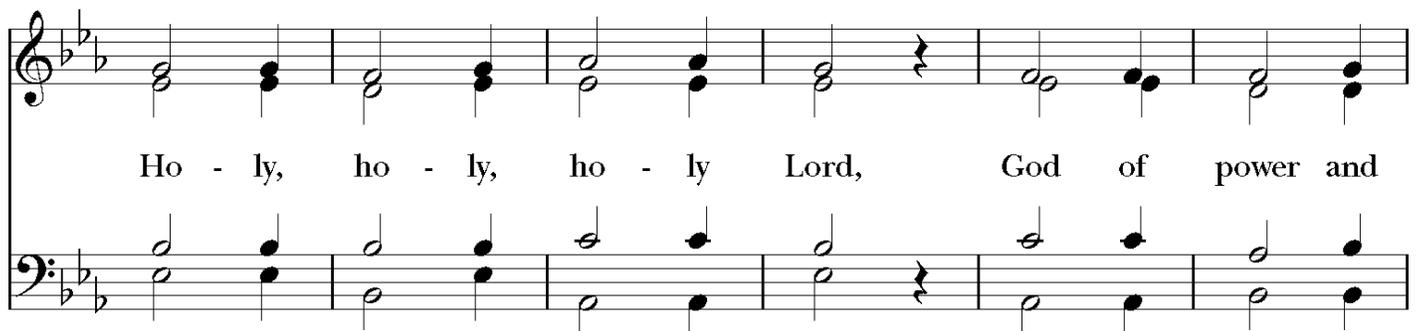
Priest: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

## SANCTUS

## THE HYMNAL 1982 #S-130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Priest: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

Priest: When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**All: We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Priest: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Michael. our Presiding Bishop and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember Rachel, Christina, Jacob, George, Jack, Mary, Charlie, Lori, Linda and the Family of Don.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Christopher and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: 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 Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM

THE HYMNAL 1982 #S-164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

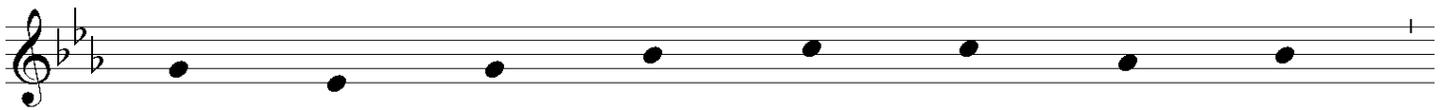
All are invited to share in this sacred meal. This offering of the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is for you, a precious child of God.

At this time, if you are joining us in-person, please carefully form a single line in the middle aisle beginning with the front rows and working back as space allows. Please make sure to stay at least six feet away from anyone not in your household and keep your mask on.

The Priest will distribute Communion wafers. Please keep your mask on as you approach then process to the left or right depending on where you are sitting. Please wait until you are far from the Priest and others before carefully removing your masks to partake of Communion. Please replace your mask as quickly as you are able.

## COMMUNION HYMN

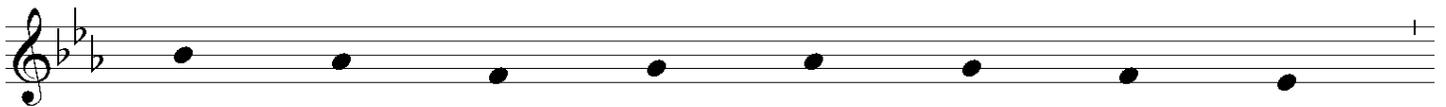
THE HYMNAL 1982 #60



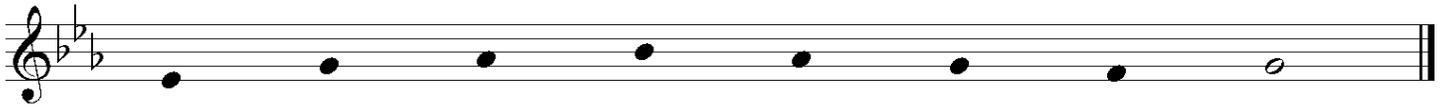
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
\* 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

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All stand as they are able.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

**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.**

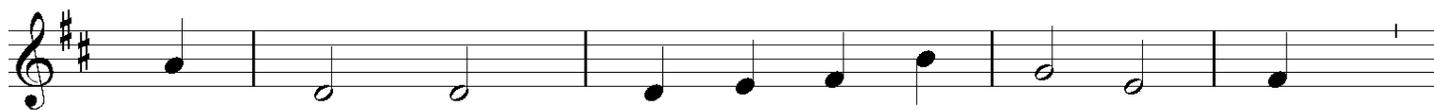
### THE BLESSING

The Presider blesses the People, and the People respond,

**People: Amen.**



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

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## THE DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

WACHET AUF, J.S. BACH

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Sundays Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10:15 am