

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2023 • 9:00 am

Welcome to St. Andrew's.

We are grateful for your presence with us this morning. If you want to learn more about St. Andrew's or want us to contact you, sign the guest registry in the Narthex, our Foyer, or fill out a green pew card, which may be placed in the offering plate, given to a clergy person or mailed to the Parish Office. For more detailed information about our worship, ministry, outreach and community please visit our website: www.standrews-madison.org.

About today's Liturgy

The season of Advent is marked by longing, of desire for God, and by waiting... waiting for the promises to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, Emmanuel, God Among us. We begin this season with a return to liturgical texts from the Book of Common Prayer. Eucharistic Prayer B includes the phrase, "For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world," and is particularly appropriate for this season. Waiting in the dark for the light to dawn, we will sing more of the liturgy. We will also return to a more traditional telling of the Eucharistic Prayer, the story of God's saving work among us, without the call and response format that we have been using. May the liturgy serve to heighten our longing for God, and enliven our anticipation of the fulfillment of promises made when the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

PRELUDE | Chorale prelude on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland J.S. Bach (1685.1750)

The Word of God

The service follows the service for Holy Eucharist: Rite II, which begins on page 355 in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Music can be found in the blue Hymnal in your pew rack.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

HYMN | O come, O come, Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel) hymnal 56; stanzas 1-4

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.**

Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

SONG OF PRAISE | The First Song of Isaiah (Thomas Merton)

hymnal 679

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *The congregation will read the Psalm in unison.*

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'”

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

20 I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

21 My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

22 No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

23 I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

25 I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN | Come, thou long expected Jesus (Stuttgart)

hymnal 66

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Our Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Lynne Carver

A brief silence follows the sermon.

NICENE CREED

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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Intercessor: Risen Lord,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

CONFESSION

**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.**

ABSOLUTION

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

CELEBRATIONS AND INVITATIONS

Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

VOLUNTARY | Duo from *Livre D'orgue*

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault (1676-1749)

AT THE PRESENTATION:

The people stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY REPONSE | With gratitude and humble trust



1. With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to
2. A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and



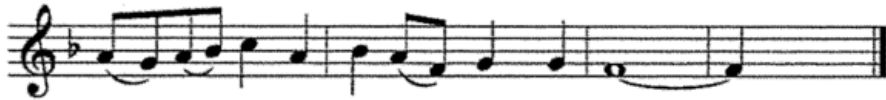
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with all hu - man - i -
give; to make our life an of - fer - ing to God that all may



ty. O__ thou who gav - est__ us__ thy self in
live; the__ Church of Christ is__ call - ing us to



Je - sus Christ thy Son,__ help us to give our -
make the dream come true:__ a world re - deemed by



selves each day un - til life's work is done. _____
Christ-like love all life in__ Christ made new. _____

CORDA

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SURSUM
BCP 367

BCP 367

BCP 368

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All people are invited to this table. If you would like to participate but not receive the bread or wine, come to the rail with your arms folded across your chest for a blessing. If you require a gluten-free host, please inform the server.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

VOLUNTARY | Toccata per l'Elevatione from *Fiori Musicali*

G.. Frscobaldi (1583-1643)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN | Hark! the glad sound! the Saviour comes (Richmond)
hymnal 72

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE | Basse et Dessus de Trompette from *Livre D'orgue*

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

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CHRISTMAS EVE | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm Eucharist

8:30pm Carol Prelude

9:00pm Candlelight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9am Christmas Day Eucharist



OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday, December 26

- 8:00am Morning Prayer (Zoom)
- 9:45am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- 6:45pm Hymn Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 27

- 6:30am Dawn Patrol Bible Study
- 8:00am Morning Prayer (Zoom)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00am Eucharist
Spoken Eucharist

10:30am Eucharist
Choral Eucharist

Altar flowers can be given in celebration of an anniversary, to honor someone, or to remember a loved one who has died. To sign up, call the office at (618) 233-3249, or email at general@standrews-madison.org.

**St. Andrew's
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Casey Reiser

Junior Warden

David Polet

Treasurer

Kevin Featherston-Crowe

Clerk

Jeff Ocwieja

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Erin Gasser

Joanne Lehman

Dennis Lloyd

John Mullen

Jeff Ocwieja

Andy Porter

Julia Stanley

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