

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents
21 December, 2025 ~ 9:30 AM

Welcome! In The Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. **BCP** means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

Prelude

Voluntary

Please use this time for quiet prayer and contemplation

The Parish Notices

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn #56 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 7 and 8)*

VENI VENI EMMANUEL, plainsong 15th C

*O come, Desire of nations, bind in one
the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our
sad divisions cease, and be thyself our
King of Peace.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Officiant Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

Officiant Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

People **O Lord God of Hosts**

Officiant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People **Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.**

The fourth Advent Candle is now lit.

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord:

Response **And grant us your salvation.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant 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. *All Amen.*

Trisagion S-102 (all sing) Holy God

Alexander Archangelsky

The Collect of the Day:

BCP, p. 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant 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 First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #265 (*Please stand*) *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*All are seated*)

The Sermon

The Rev. Peter De Franco

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.

The Prayers of the People:

(Fr. Rich Morley, St David's Episcopal Church, Radnor, Pennsylvania)

(The people may stand or kneel)

Celebrant In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

Leader O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Sean our Presiding Bishop, Sally our Bishop, Erin, our Newly Called Rector and Peter, our Supply Priest, and our Wardens, Vestry and Lay Leaders that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, especially Colleen our Mayor, Philip our Governor, Mikie, our Governor-elect, Donald, our President, António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations and leaders and people of all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially all on our Parish Prayer List and those we remember in the silence of our hearts (*Pause*). We ask that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday and anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Leader In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray for the dead. (*Pause to pray for the dead.*) May you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession

BCP, p. 360

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

BCP, p. 360

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*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Will We Know Him When He Comes

Price/Besig

Presentation of the Gifts (*All stand*)

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

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Sanctus S-130 (all sing) *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Franz Peter Schubert

Celebrant 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:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 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. *All: AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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. The congregation observes a time of silence.

Fraction Anthem: S-154 *(all sing) Christ Our Passover*

David Hurd

(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)

Postcommunion Prayer *(Please stand)*

BCP, p. 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.

Blessing

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.**

Hymn (*Insert*)

People Look East

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Postlude

Raise Now Your Song on High

Camille Saint-Saëns

Coffee Hour is held EVERY SUNDAY in Martin Hall following the service!

Serving Today

Crucifer ~ John Wall **Lector** ~ Kay De Cicco

Ushers ~ Bob Weidmann, Mike DeCicco **Chalice Bearer** ~ Kay DeCicco

WE WILL BE DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY!! ALSO, ALTAR GUILD WILL BE CLEANING AND POLISHING TOMORROW AT 9:30 AM ~ ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

Parish Prayer List – December 21, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: *If you need to add or remove a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, December 24th.*

Lara Sparks Deitz
Christian Balint
Pierro Family
Connie
Dcn. Judy
Rob Meyer
Pat
Rich Cashel
JoAnn King
Cindy Wood
Gia
Frank
Bill Bentley
Nellie Riley
Chris Mercer

Mary Ann Crewdson
Warren Lamon
Lovas Family
Joe
Lynne Weidmann
Tino
Kathy Rice
Charles Sullivan
Ellis Barbieri
Diane
Jeannine
Fran Iozzi
Dr. John
Mike Phillips
Katie Gillis

Dennis
Ann White
Debbie & Joe Reising
Peg Appleget
Meg Neff
Melanie Harman
Jessie
Doug Hunter
Judy Hamilton
Ray M.
Phil
Johnny Johnson, Jr.
Scott
Adam Boulderstone
Frank, III

Will Locovare
Bill O'Connell
Pat Strocchia
Devin Hone
Flood Family
Rose Federici
Don Deitz
Friends and Family of Pete White

Ollie
Glenn Servetah
George Balch
Barbara
Kay DiCicco
Anna & Matteo Mannino
Priscilla Ruoff Harvey

Ben Giannico
Mary K.
Barbara Wheeler
Rick Rosenbaum
Joe Verrone
Scotty Camarote
Family & Friends of TJ Patton

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall
Brandan White

Birthdays: Florence Boulden (12/26), Curtis Logan (12/26)

WEEKLY CALENDAR December 22-26

22 – Mon	Morning Prayer (FB)	9:00 AM
	Chair Yoga	9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
	Altar Guild Cleaning & Polishing for Christmas	9:30 AM
24 – Wed	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	
	Flower Guild to Decorate	9:30 AM
	Christmas Eve Family Service	4:30 PM
	Caroling in the Church	7:00 PM
	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist	7:30 PM
25 – Thurs	<i>Parish Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas</i>	
	Christmas Day Said Holy Eucharist	10:00 AM
	“Clam-Diggers” AA Group	7:30 PM
	Compline (FB)	9:00 PM
26 – Fri	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

January 4, 2026 Epiphany Service

On Sunday, January 4, 2026, we shall celebrate the Epiphany, the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. We shall welcome three Magi during the Sermon.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Meeting & Brunch *Sun. Jan. 11th after Service*

Please mark your calendars! See Pat if you want to help with Brunch.

The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents
Pearl & Marine Streets, Beach Haven, NJ 08008