



# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

## Welcome and Announcements

## The Lighting of the Advent Candles

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

### The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

### The Collect of the Day

p. 160

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Lesson: Romans 1:1–7

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1026

*Commentary: Not much is known about the founding of the church in Rome, but it was probably established by Jewish Christians who settled there after the first waves of persecution dispersed believers throughout the ancient world. By the time Paul wrote this letter, probably in AD 56-57, the church in Rome had gained a reputation for steadfast faithfulness. In these opening verses of the letter, Paul set forth the most fundamental elements of Christianity, explaining that the gospel, which centers on Jesus Christ, fulfills God's promises that were revealed in the Old Testament.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*People*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

*People*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

**The Nicene Creed**

p. 327

**The Prayers of the People**

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**Confession of Sin**

p. 330

**The Peace**

p. 332

**THE HOLY COMMUNION****Eucharistic Prayer II**

p. 340

**Sanctus**

p. 341

**The Lord's Prayer**

p. 336

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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**Prayer of Humble Access**

p. 337

**The Communion of the People***Gluten-free wafers available upon request*

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

p. 339

**The Blessing**

p. 339

**The Dismissal**

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*Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
 Richard Henry Youngblood & Christine Ramsaur Youngblood; Raiford Graham Trask, Mable Dunn Hall Trask,  
 Charles Ramsaur Youngblood*

**ST. JAMES PARISH**

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