



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

9:00 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 66

“Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

1 Come thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

p. 355

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 56

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Sts. 7—8

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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!

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 First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 278

Commentary: For ancient Israel, the heart of worship was the Ark of the Covenant, where God symbolically met with His people. After David was settled in his Jerusalem palace he brought the Ark to the city, planning to build a magnificent temple to honor the Lord. However, David was not the man God had chosen to build the temple, that responsibility would fall to Solomon, David's son. God made a covenant with David and promised him four things: a great name, a homeland for Israel, undisturbed rest from Israel's enemies, and an everlasting royal dynasty. This covenant was to become the basis of Israel's messianic hope, which continued to be developed through the message of prophets and psalmists.

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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15

Magnificat

Antiphon (The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all)



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of — the Lord, and my spi - rit re-joic-es in God my Sa - vior.

Psalm chant



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.**

ANTIPHON

He has mercy on those who / **fear him ***

in every gener-/ **ation.**

He has shown the strength of his / **arm, ***

he has scattered the proud in their con-/ **ceit.**

ANTIPHON

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**.

ANTIPHON

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**.

ANTIPHON

The Epistle: Romans 16:25–27

NRSV, p. 1039

Commentary: In this concluding doxology, Paul brought together words and ideas he expounded throughout the epistle. Paul was confident God could and would do for the Romans what they needed. The mystery of the gospel was hidden until God revealed it, partially in the Old Testament and fully in the New. As the only God, He is God of all people; as the wise God, He is author of the plan of salvation. God is worthy of all glory because of who He is and what He has done. Moreover, believers have access to God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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.

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

Sequence Hymn

“Sing of Mary, pure and lowly”

Pleading Savior



1 Sing of Ma - ry, pure and low - ly, Vir - gin moth - er
 2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Ma - ry, In the home at
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; Glo - ry be to

un - de - filed, Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly,
 Na - za - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry
 God the Son; Glo - ry be to God the Spi - rit;

Who be - came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of
 Love en - dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the
 Glo - ry to the Three in One. From the heart of

fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,
 love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,
 bless - ed Ma - ry, From all saints the song a - scends,

Word made flesh, our ve - ry bro - ther, Takes our na - ture by his birth.
 Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died.
 And the Church the strain re - ech - oes Un - to earth's re - mo - test ends.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

NRSV, p.933

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
 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.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

Celebrant and People

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

The response to each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Anglus emittitur, melody from *Piae Cantiones*
arr. Richard Runciman Terry

Gabriel's message does away
 Satan's curse and Satan's sway,
 out of darkness brings our Day:
so, behold, all the gates of heaven unfold.

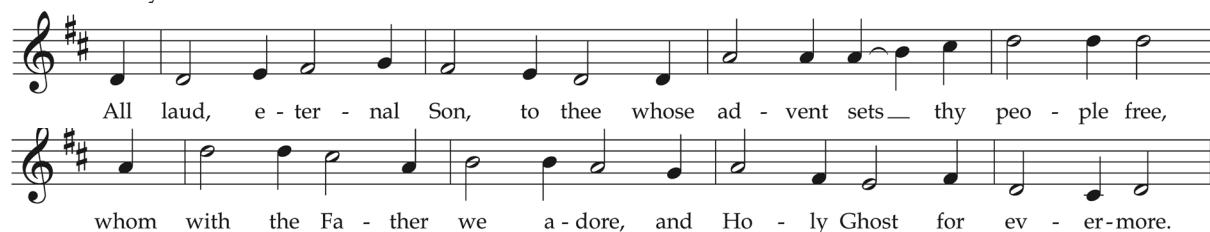
Weakness shall the strong confound;
 by the hands, in grave clothes wound,
 Adam's chains shall be unbound
Refrain

He that comes despised shall reign;
 he that cannot die, be slain;
 death by death its death shall gain:
Refrain

Art by art shall be assailed;
 to the cross shall Life be nailed;
 from the grave shall hope be hailed:
Refrain

Presentation Hymn

Puer nobis



The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

p. 367

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

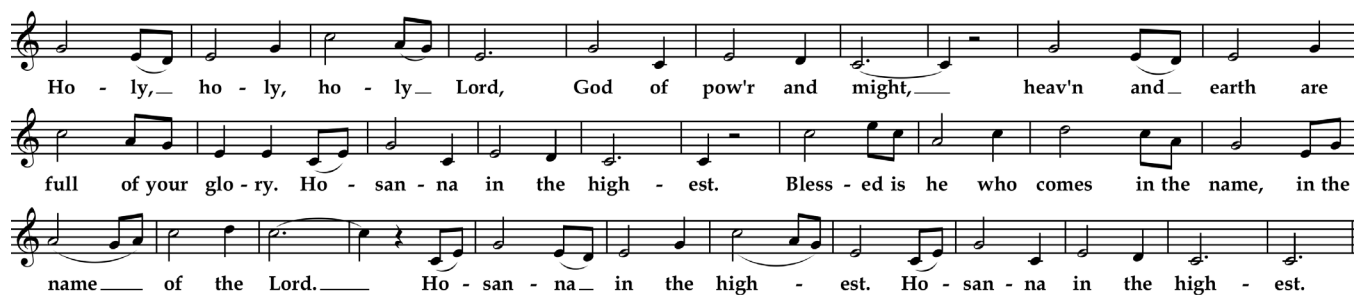
Here, a proper preface is said, then the Celebrant continues...

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

"Holy, holy, holy Lord"

Resignation



The people stand or kneel.

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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.**

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

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.**

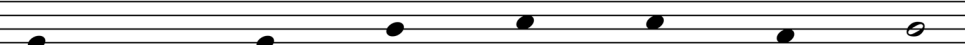
p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S152

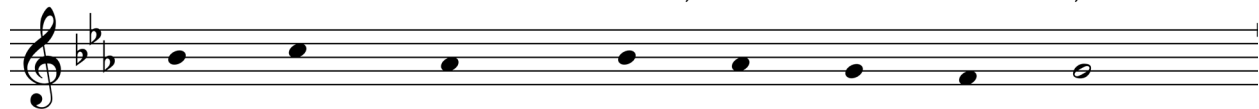
People There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Conditor alme siderum



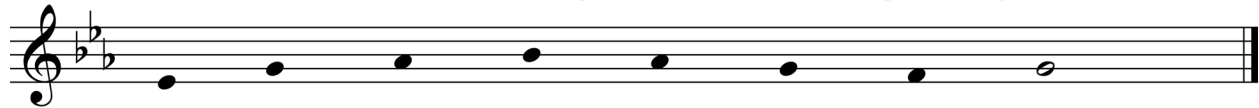
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,
4 At your great Name, O Jes - us, now
5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



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, ho - nor, 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.

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

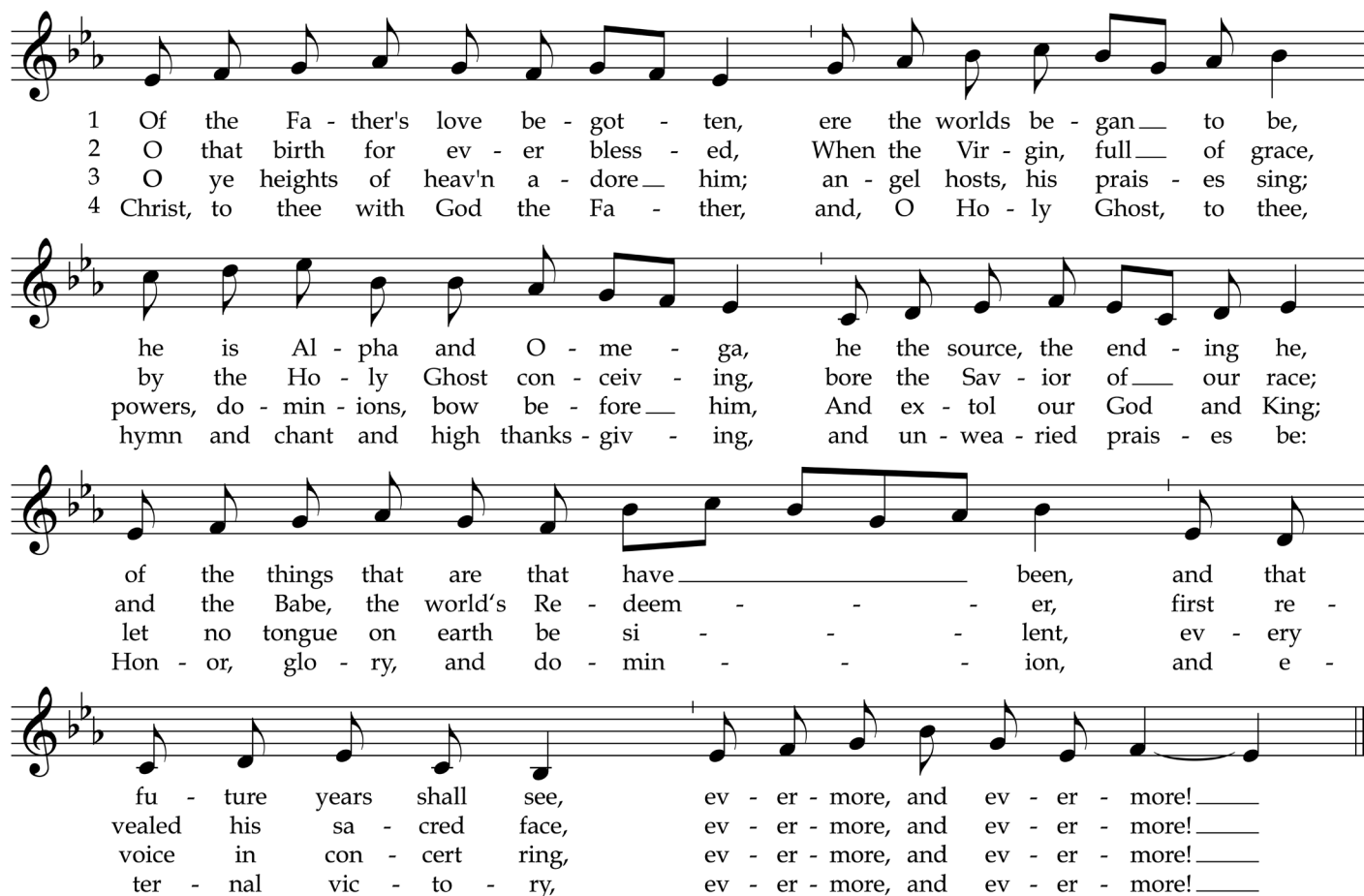
The Blessing

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.**

Closing Hymn 82

"Of the Father's love begotten"

Divinum mysterium



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan — to be,
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, When the Vir - gin, full — of grace,
 3 O ye heights of heav'n a - dore — him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
 he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of — our race;
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore — him, And ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be:
 of the things that are that have — been, and that
 and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re -
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e -
 fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more, and ev - er - more! —
 vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more, and ev - er - more! —
 voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more, and ev - er - more! —
 ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more, and ev - er - more! —

The Dismissal

p. 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Celebrant: The Reverend Phillip Craig, Jr.

Preacher: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon.

Organist & Choir Director: John Sullivan

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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