

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21 & 22, 2024

The Prelude *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659*

J.S. Bach

The Processional Hymn *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

The Hymnal 1982, 66

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

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.**

The Kyrie, at 5pm

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

Christ, have mercy. or Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

The Kyrie, at 9:30am- *melody is sung three times; Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

Kyrie eleison, #13 from *My Heart Sings Out* Music: Paraguayan. Copyright © 1995 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The 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.**

The First Lesson

Micah 5:2-

5a

Our opening lesson from the Old Testament presents an ancient prophecy which foresees the day when a new ruler shall come forth for Israel out of David's city of Bethlehem. The early church heard the prophet's words as an oracle concerning Jesus.

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.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Response, Psalm 80:1-7

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph / like a flock;*
Shine forth, you that are enthroned up/on the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma/nasseh.*
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 ene/mies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O / God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, / and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

In this New Testament lesson, Paul describes the purpose of Jesus' coming into the world- to make an offering in his body for our sanctification.

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.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual Hymn *Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord*

The Hymnal 1982, 437

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

Then, all standing, as able, and facing the Gospel,

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

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."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse

The Nicene Creed

Enriching our Worship 1

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.

The Prayers of the People, Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; ***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For our minister Alan. For all bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in God's Church.

I ask for your prayers of thanksgiving for those we remember in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Parishes of the Alewife Deanery: Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard (Cambridge), Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology (Cambridge), The Society of St. John the Evangelist (Cambridge), Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains. *Silence*

We pray for those on our prayer list: Mary, Christy, Brian, Steve, Charlie, Bruce, Dave, John, Joe, Leo, Sunny, Kim, Alannah, MaryAnn, Geraldine, Debbie, Melissa, Herb, David, Leah, Fr. Paul, Luke and Bruce, April and Andrea.

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; ***Who put their trust in you.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Please add your prayers silently or aloud.*

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Please add your thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence may be kept.*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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, as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory Anthem *A Stable Lamp Is Lighted*

Michael Larkin

The Doxology

Offertory Prayer at 5pm: All things come to Thee O Lord and of Thy own have we given Thee.

Offertory Hymn at 9:30am

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

The Holy Eucharist ~ Eucharistic Prayer B

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 sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The Hymnal 1982, S 125

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Then the Celebrant continues We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, 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 Fraction Anthem / The Breaking of the Bread

Said at 5pm,

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Sung at 9:30am

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." and "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace." The score includes repeat signs and fermatas.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: Agnus Dei, #57 from Enriching Our Music — Music: *Missa Oecumenica*, from the *Trinitas Choral Review*, arr. Richard Proulx, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © 1999 Oregon Catholic Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Celebrant These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please hold out your hand to receive the host.

You may ask for the chalice or receive the wine in the small cups offered to you in a tray.

If you prefer not to receive the wine, please cross your arms and wait for the minister to say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

As you return to your seats, deposit your cup in the place provided in a white pedestal table.

If you **prefer to receive a blessing** you may cross your arms across your chest.

If you would like to **remain in your seat** and receive communion, please **let an usher know**.

The Postcommunion 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.**

The Blessing

Welcome, Celebrations and Announcements

The Recessional Hymn *Soon and very soon*

- 1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!
- 2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

Lift Every Voice and Sing, 14

- 3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!
- 4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

The Dismissal

Eucharistic Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude *People Look East!*

Setting by Kristina Langlois

Serving This Weekend

Celebrant: **The Reverend Alan R. Hesse**

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: **Mary Ames** (5pm); **Greg Roche** (9:30am)

Lectors: **Jann Czarnetzki** (5pm); **Deb Roberts** (9:30am)

Musicians: **Misao Koyama** and **Choir**

Altar Guild: **Sylvia Connor, Bev Messersmith, Phyllis Helfrich, and Anne Miller**

Sunday School: **Will Hibbard** and **Becky Coleman**

Ushers: **Lynn Tozier** and **Mary Howe**

Hospitality: **Celeste Reynolds**

Announcements

Last call for the Christmas Thanksgivings and Memorials listing. Please fill-out a pink form and place it in the plate, or call the office (508-888-2828) and leave a voicemail. Suggested donation is \$20 for poinsettias.

Nominations are open for St. John's Vestry. Nominate yourself, or someone else (ask them first), complete the form in the Narthex and place in the box. An outline of responsibilities is located next to the box, or see Fr. Al with questions. All nominations are due by **December 22nd**.

Jeannie Johnson maintains the Stewardship mailings. If you would like to receive a set of pledge envelopes, please call her at 508-360-4602, or leave a message for her in the office at 508-888-2828.

If you are making a Christmas gift to the church, would you kindly write "Christmas Gift" in the memo line on your check.

St. John's Thrift Shop will close on Saturday, December 21st and re-open on Tuesday, February 4th. We are very grateful to all of our volunteers, parishioners, and shoppers for your generous support in the past year! Dee McLaughlin, Manager

In the event of weather-related service cancellations, there will be a notification via Facebook, and you will receive a Constant Contact notification in your email inbox.

December 21-29, 2024

Saturday, Dec. 21

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Worship with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Dec. 22

9:30am Worship with Holy Eucharist and Sunday School

Hospitality following worship, Parish Hall

Monday, Dec. 23

10am Al-Anon, Parish Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

12noon AA, Parish Hall

6:10pm Musical Offering for the Christ Child

6:30pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Sing Along Sermon with Holy Eucharist

Thursday, Dec. 26

12noon AA, Undercroft

6pm AA, Undercroft

Friday, Dec. 27

No scheduled activities

Saturday, Dec. 28

9:30am AA, Parish Hall

5pm Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 29

9:30am Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Hospitality following the service, Parish Hall

Welcome to St. John's!

Whether this is your first visit to St. John's or you are a long-time member, please know that there is a warm welcome for you here!

Please feel free to participate fully in our service today and in the life of the parish. We are glad you have come and hope you leave feeling closer to God! At several points in the service, you may notice that some people are kneeling, some are standing and some are sitting. We are given this choice and you should feel free to do whichever is most appropriate for you. Please know that you are invited to fully participate in the Holy Eucharist as a Baptized Christian.

If you would like to know more about St. John's and may be interested in membership or interested in being placed on our email mailing list, please contact the church office.



Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church of Sandwich Est. 1854

159 Main St, Sandwich, MA

Office Hours, Tues-Fri 9am-2pm

Parish Office 508-888-2828

Susan Sharpe, Parish Administrator parishadmin@sjchurchsandwich.org

Misao Koyama, Music Director music@sjchurchsandwich.org

The Rev. Alan R. Hesse, Rector; 508-505-5668 cell, Rector@StJohnsSandwich.org

