



# The Holy Eucharist

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### December 24, 2023

Welcome! If you are new to St. Martin's please drop us a line to let us know a little more about you and your household so we can find ways to include you in our life together.

We hope this service of worship will be a source of strength and inspiration for your spiritual journey.

[CLICK HERE OR USE THE QR CODE TO DROP US A LINE](#)



#### CHORAL PRELUDE

*Ave Maria*

Caccini

#### HYMN 265

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

Gabriel's message

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

Page 355, Book of Common Prayer

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

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

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to you our 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.**

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Morehead Family

#### SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 56 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 7-8)*

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Page 212, Book of Common Prayer

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.**

#### A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my / Savior; \*  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.  
 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.

**A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS**

Romans 16:25-27

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!

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

**HYMN 258**

*Virgin-born, we bow before thee*

Psalm 86

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

*Before the Gospel*

*Deacon*        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.

*After the Gospel*

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*      Praise to you, Lord Christ

**SERMON**

Tony Kroll, Seminarian

*A period of silent reflection follows the Sermon*

**THE NICENE CREED**

Page 358, Book of Common Prayer

*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 FORM IV**

Book of Common Prayer p. 388

*Deacon or other leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for churches around the world, especially The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and St. Francis', St. John the Divine, and St. Martin's in Houston.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the students, teachers and staff of Reading Junior High, George Ranch High, and UT Austin.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; [especially those we now name](#); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, (especially N.) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect. The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*Minister 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 PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY**

*Please take a few moments to offer yourself - your time, your talents, your gifts, and your service to God with a prayer that your offering may be pleasing in God's sight, spread God's love, and make a difference in God's world. You may text 817-270-6880 with an amount + GENERAL or PLEDGE to give or you may scan this QR code to give online, or [click HERE](#).*



**OFFERTORY HYMN 54**

*Savior of the nations come!* Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION 380 ST. 3**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

Page 361 Book of Common Prayer

*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 our thanks and praise.**  
*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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 HYMN S 130**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Schubert

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant*

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**FRACTION ANTHEM S 153** *Christ Our Passover* Martens

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN 302** *Father, we thank thee who hast planted* Rendez a Dieu

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *The Angel Gabriel* Raney

## **SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS**

*This week's visitor is Mary Beth Butler.*

*Eucharistic Visitors present themselves at the Altar to receive the Sacrament to take to those who are prevented from attending in person. The Celebrant then says,*

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

*The People respond,*

**We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

*Eucharistic Visitors remain until the Altar Party retires, then leave for their visits.*

**THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP** Page 365 Book of Common Prayer

*Celebrant and People together standing*

**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.**

## **THE BLESSING**

**HYMN 74** *Blest be the King* Valet will ich dir geben

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Deacon* Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata* Lee



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