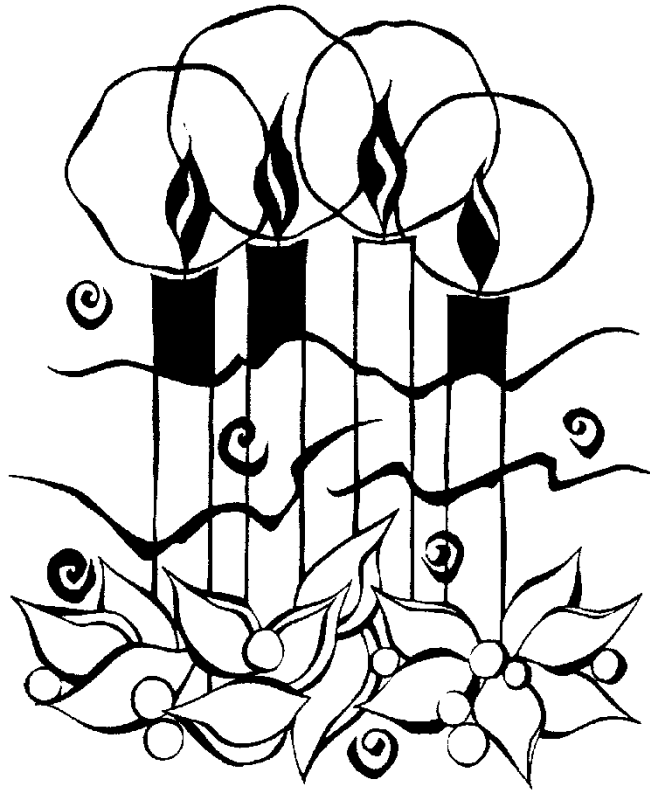


# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving  
God + Neighbor

*204 Monument Road  
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512  
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## Silence Before Worship in Advent

During these four Sundays prior to Christmas, we invite you to join us in maintaining silence in church from about 9:50 am when choir practice ends and the candles are lit. Warmly invited but never “enforced,” silence isn’t absolute “absence of noise” as much as it is refraining from conversation and making room for our prayer. Thank you for exploring this new mode with us. We’ll have an opportunity to reflect on it together in the new year.

### “O” Antiphon Introit

*O Oriens*

O Dayspring, brightness of light everlasting and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

*Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.*

## The Word of God

**The Opening Hymn 436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates**

*Truro*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**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 Collect of the Day

*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 forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### The Lessons

#### **A reading from the prophet 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.”

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

**Psalm 80 O Shepherd, hear and lead your flock**

*St. Louis*



1 O Shep-herd, hear and lead your flock, as lambs we crave your care;  
2 Our self - ish prayers de-serve God's wrath, our pride, a sud - den burst;  
3 God's lin - eage, like a vine, once spread and flour-ished in the land;



what strength on earth ap-proach-es yours, what mer - cies can com-pare?  
we have but stones to serve as bread, and tears to quell our thirst.  
but now the vine-yard fails, the fruit lies with-ered in the sand.



Re-store, O God, your fav - or, the ra-diance of your face  
Re-store, O God Al - might - y, the ra-diance of your face  
Re-store, LORD God Al - might - y, the ra-diance of your face



to light-en and re - veal the gift of your re - deem - ing grace.  
to light-en and re - veal the gift of your re - deem - ing grace.  
to light-en and re - veal the gift of your re - deem - ing grace.

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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.

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

*Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and gospel.*

## **The Sequence Hymn 81 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**

*Es is ein Ros*

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

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Please stand as you are able for the Creed.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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 and the Son, 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.**

*You may continue to stand or sit or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God, responding “hear our prayer.”

*Silence*

O God with us, Emmanuel, whose Advent renews our hope, our peace, our joy and our freedom to love: strengthen these gifts within in as we begin a new year together. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

That we may discern your word in every sound, your power in every human embrace and your love in every gesture of kindness. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

That we may hold fast to the hope that your power to transform and to heal is at work in a world broken by sin and violence and ancient hatreds, and that your Advent heralds peace. We pray for healing from violence in our own nation and across your world in any region torn apart by war and civil unrest: Ukraine and Russia, Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan. We pray for the endurance of peace between Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For Sean our presiding bishop, and Julia our bishop; and for all people whose ministries show forth your love and healing power. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard; the Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology; and The Society of St. John the Evangelist, all in Cambridge and the Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We remember especially those who have asked for our prayers: Dick Anderson, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Sally Drew, Bill & Judy Gardiner, Joan Kirkby, Barbara & Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and those we name before you now.

*Silence*

*The People add their own petitions silently or aloud.*

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

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. For families, friends, and neighbors, and for all worshipping with us today, here and in their own homes. In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for the community of the Terraces as its residents prepare to move to new homes.

*Silence*

*The People add their own thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

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

We pray for all who have died including Lucille Assorto and Nancy McCarthy, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People add their own petitions silently or aloud.*

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

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

## **The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Absolution**

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**

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

## **The Greeting and Announcements**

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

*Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth*

Praetorius, arr. Crissafulli

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth;  
let every age adoring fall, such birth befits the God of all.  
Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit thou art still  
the word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.  
O equal to the Father, thou. Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;  
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.  
All laud, eternal Son to thee, whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost forevermore.

### Hymn 72 Hark! the glad sound!

*Richmond*

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come  
pro - mised long; let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal ar - ches ring with  
ev - every voice a song.  
thy be - lov - ed Name.

*As the offering is presented, please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3 from *Enriching Our Worship*

*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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing together:

### Sanctus S-124

Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

*You may remain standing, kneel or sit for the remainder of the Eucharistic prayer as your personal piety guides you.*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all. Your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations. You delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory intended for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**



Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **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 Breaking of the Bread

S-154 Christ our Passover

Hurd

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **The Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home as well as those receiving communion at this time at The Terraces (Orleans) thanks to our Eucharistic minister team.*

**Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Creator and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.*

## **The Communion Hymns**

**Hymn 262 By the Creator, Joseph was appointed**

*Bickford*

**Hymn 56 O come, o come, Emmanuel**

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **The Sending** *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

*Celebrant:* 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.  
*People:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

## The Advent Blessing

May the God who stoops to become incarnate grant us the grace to remember that the world is too broken for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. **Amen.**

May God take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, and take our hands and work through them. **Amen.**

May God stir our hearts with yearning for the coming kingdom and open our ears to the voices of the prophets. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains us, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

*Bereden väg för Herran*

## The Sung Dismissal

*Palestrina/Ledger*

*Celebrant*      Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed...  
*Choir*          Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you. (*refrain*)  
*Celebrant*      Stand ye still and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord... (*refrain*)  
                    Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost... (*refrain*)

## The Postlude

*Noel: Where are the Happy Shepherds Going?*

Claude Balbastre

*Celebrant and Preacher*

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Minister of Music*

Joan Kirchner

*Eucharistic Ministers*

Earle Bailey, Dianne Fromm

*Readers*

Doug Fromm, Nancy Boccia, Chris Crighton

*Ushers*

Dick Koeppen, Phil Suraci

*Altar Guild*

Gail Binney-Sterne

*Audio/Video*

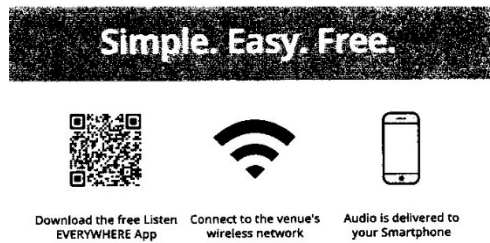
Nancy Boccia

*The Terraces*

Brenda Ridgeway

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\*To connect to our Hearing Assist system via blue tooth, please see the instructions below.



Please connect to: “CHS\_Hearing” and the  
Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.