

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT ST. PAUL'S
The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024



St. John the Baptist, traditional icon, tempera on wood, ca. 17th century.

Welcome to St. Paul's!

Worshipping With Us: *Our worship follows the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks (BCP) and authorized supplements, The People's responses are in bold. Our music comes from The Hymnal unless noted. Music noted "S-" are printed in this bulletin, "H-" in the Hymnal, and "L-" is the black-and-red Lift Every Voice and Sing. Links to the online Book of Common Prayer are in blue. Hymns are listed on the hymnboard at the front of the church as well as in this bulletin.*

Restrooms are located downstairs; please ask for directions.

Please ensure devices are off or set to vibrate. Thank you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude

Instrumental

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

H-66

*1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.*

*2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

The Acclamation

[BCP. p. 323](#)

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Song of Petition (*sung by all*)

Lord Have Mercy

S-90

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer -
 cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect (Prayer) of the Day

[BCP, p. 159](#)

Presider: Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The First Reading *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
 shout, O Israel!
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter Jerusalem!
 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
 he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

The Response *The First Song of Isaiah Ecce, Deus Isaiah 12:2-6*
(Prayed by all, alternating by half verse.)

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn at the Gospel (*stand*) *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

H-76

*1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.*

*3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.*

The Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Acclamation before the Gospel:

Glory to you, Lord Christ

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Response after the Gospel

Praise to you, Lord Christ

*4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.*

*5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.*

Sermon

Fr. Bob

The Nicene Creed

[BCP. p. 326](#)

Prayers of the People

[BCP p. 328](#)

This Week's Intercessions: (all say the names in **bold**):

We pray for **Sue** Ferguson, **Heather** Durdil, **Stan** Mizerny, **Jan** Bright, **Zach** Mitchell, **Mary** Solon, **Missi** Kowalski, **Jeanne** Burgess, **Amy** Huston, and those others who have asked for our prayers, whom we now name, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for all who have died, especially **Nancy** Betz, those others we name now in our hearts or aloud.....

We pray for an ending to war throughout the world, and especially in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East.

We pray in thanksgiving for all your blessings that you have given us, and especially those we name, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for all the residents and visitors of these Lake Erie Islands, and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for **all the members and guests of this parish, for Bob our priest, and for our sister churches of Zion Methodist Kelleys Island, St. Michael's Kelleys Island, Mother of Sorrows Put-in-Bay, St Paul's Duluth, St. Paul's Elkins Park, and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Pelee Island.**

In the Diocese of Ohio, we pray for: **Anne our Bishop; and in the West Mission Area, for Grace Church, Defiance; Trinity Church, Findlay; St. Paul's Church, Maumee; St. John the Evangelist's Church, Napoleon; St. Paul's Church, Oregon; and St. Timothy's Church, Perrysburg.**

And in the Anglican Communion, we pray for **Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the people and clergy of: The Anglican Church of Tanzania; the Diocese of Kontagora (Nigeria); the Diocese of Kongor (S. Sudan); the Diocese of Kootenay (Canada); the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon (Hong Kong); the Diocese of Western Kowloon (Hong Kong); and the Diocese of Krishna-Godavari (S. India).**

For whom else and what else shall we pray today?

The Confession of Sin

[BCP. p. 330](#)

Welcoming a New Member

Presider:

Dear Friends in Christ, in companionship with each other as we journey in faith, we welcome new members into this community of St. Paul's. We welcome them to join us as we seek to love the Lord our God with heart and soul, mind and strength, and

to love our neighbors as ourselves. We welcome and cherish their unique gifts and experiences as together we follow the Holy Spirit in transforming this community for the work and mission of Jesus Christ.

The new members of the community are presented.

A member of the vestry or other leader makes the presentation.

Presenter: I present Ed Fisher to be welcomed as a member of this Community.

Presider Do you desire to continue your journey into Christ as a member of St. Paul's?

New Member I do.

Presider Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in this community of faith and pledge to work, pray, and give to build up our common life?

New Member I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you who witness these promises, do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

Loving God, we give thanks that you have brought Ed and his family to join us in ministry. Knit us together, one to another, so that in unity we may know you and serve you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Blessings

Dedication of the Nancy Betz Memorial Rose Set and Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Priest: All things come from you, O Lord;

All: **And from your own gifts do we give to you.**

Priest: Prosper the work of our hands;

All: **Prosper our handiwork.**

Priest: Show your servants your works;

All: **And your splendor to their children.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this vestment and this icon to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest: Christ is the icon of the invisible God; all things were created through him and for him.

Priest: The Word became flesh:

All: **And dwelt among us.**

Bishop: Let us pray. Almighty God, whose Son our Savior manifested your glory in his flesh, and sanctified the outward and visible to be a means to perceive realities unseen: Accept, we pray, this representation of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and grant that as we look upon it, our hearts may be drawn to things which can be seen only by the eye of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest: You shall make holy garments for Aaron, for glory and for beauty.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: Let your people sign with joy.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, you revealed your Son clothed in majesty and glory. Accept this chasuble for the use of the clergy of your church, that, being clothed with humility as they minister to you, they may show forth his eternal splendor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant and sometime priest of this parish Nancy Betz, and we pray that, having opened to her the gates of larger life, you will receive her more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, she may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And we bless your Name, O Lord, because it has pleased you to enable your servant Russel Brohl II to offer these gifts for your worship. Remember him for good, and grant that all who benefit from his gifts may show their thankfulness to you by using them in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Greeting:

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

All may greet those close to them with a sign of Christ's peace.

The Holy Communion

At the Offering

Please support the ministry of St. Paul's with your tithes and offerings.

To give securely online, please scan this QR code:

Instrumental



At the Presentation

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

H-380, vs 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 Communion Prayer

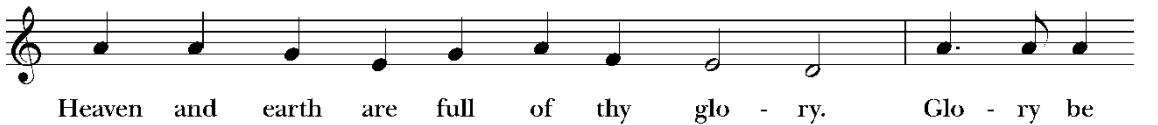
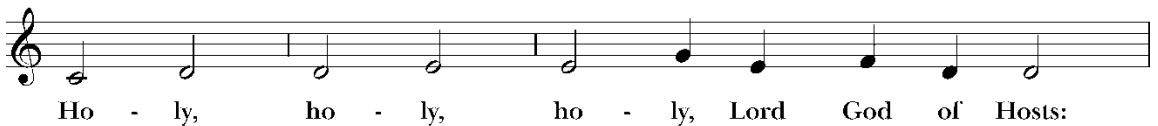
Prayer II

[BCP p. 340](#)

The Angelic Hymn

Holy Holy Holy

S-113



Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

At The Breaking of the Bread:

S-169

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Reception of Communion

All who are baptized and permitted to receive Communion in their own traditions are welcome at the Lord's Supper. Come up to the Altar Rail and stand or kneel. Receive the Bread or gluten-free Host in your hand, and either consume it and drink from the Chalice, or dip the Host into the Chalice when it comes to you. (Ask the Presider if you require gluten-free.) If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please simply cross your hands over your chest.

Communion Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion

H-65

*1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.*

*2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.*

*3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.

And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel vs 5-6

H-56

*5 O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly wide
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.*

*6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Dismissal

All respond:

Thanks be to God!



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Service Schedule	This Sunday Dec. 15	Next Sunday Dec. 22
Altar Guild	Melinda McCann	Melinda McCann
Accompanist	Paula Hubner	Paula Hubner
Reader	Ed Hubner	Ed Hubner
Intercessor	Kira Hubner	Sarah Toole
Eucharistic Minister	Bob White	Bob White

Contact Val Chornyak or Fr Bob if interested in a service ministry



The Song of Mary and the Great “O” antiphons
An ancient devotion for the last days before Christmas

The verses of O Come O Come Emmanuel are actually based on texts that began to be used as early as the 800s at daily evening prayer, just before and after the traditional Song of Mary was sung each evening. Here’s a brief devotion you might wish to use at this time to join with the wider church during this most solemn period of Advent:

➤ *Each evening beginning on December 16, pray for the Coming of the Lord, making the sign of the Cross if you wish, and saying:*

+ O God, make speed to save us: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

➤ *Then say the O Antiphon for the day (see below) then the Magnificat, the Song of Mary:*

+ My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
 For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

➤ *Now repeat today's Great Antiphon. Pause for a bit to consider the words you re praying.*

➤ *Now consider for a moment who needs your prayers. Name them before God.*

➤ *Then say the Lord's Prayer, then the following.*

December 16-21:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

December 22-23:

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

➤ *End with "May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

December 16: "O Sapientia..." (O Wisdom)

O WISDOM, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: COME, and teach us the way of prudence.

December 17: "O Adonai..." (O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel)

O LORD AND RULER of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: COME, and redeem us with outstretched arms.

December 18: "O Radix Jesse..." (O Root of Jesse)

O ROOT OF JESSE, which stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: COME, to deliver us, and tarry not.

December 19: "O Clavis David..." (O Key of David):

O KEY OF DAVID, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: COME, and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 20: "O Oriens..." (O Dawn of the East (Dayspring))

O DAWN OF THE EAST, brightness of light eternal, and Sun of Justice: COME, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 21: "O Rex..." (O King of the Gentiles (Nations))

O KING OF THE GENTILES and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: COME, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

December 22: "O Emmanuel..." (God With Us)

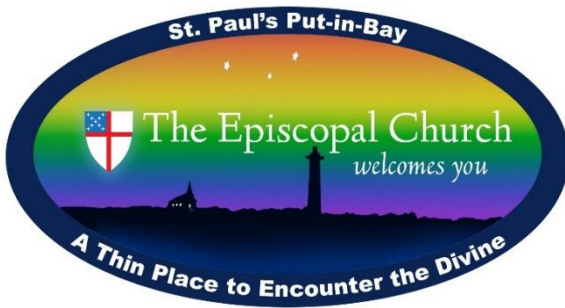
O EMMANUEL, God with us, Our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Saviour: COME to save us, O Lord our God.

December 23: "O Virgo..." (O Virgin of Virgins)

O VIRGIN OF VIRGINS, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye bold is a divine mystery.

(This traditional antiphon was used in the medieval English usage but is not in the contemporary list.)





ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[This Week at St. Paul's](#)

The Church remains open daily for prayer and meditation.

Worship:

Sunday 9 AM: Christian Formation in the Parish Hall

Sunday 10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist with hymns

Wednesday 12 noon – Prayers for the World and Holy Communion

Winter Office Hours: By appt. – call Fr Bob to arrange a time.

12-Step Groups, in the Parish Hall: Monday 8 AM – AA, Tuesday 7:30 PM – Al-Anon
Thursday 7 PM – AA; Saturday 8 AM – AA

News and Announcements

- With permission, we share Bill Jellison's new address: The Parkvue Community, Apt. 217, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky OH 44870.
- Please contact Fr. Bob if you are not receiving the weekly email and would like to. We'll need an email address or a mobile number, or both.
- To make a memorial request for Christmas poinsettias, please contact Fr. Bob or use the form enclosed in this bulletin.
- The Twelve Days of Christmas at Sr. Paul's
 - Tuesday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve at 8 PM
 - Wednesday Dec. 25: Christmas Day at 12 noon
 - Thurs.-Sat. Dec 26-28: SS Stephen, John, and Holy Innocents at 12 noon
 - Sunday Dec. 29: The First Sunday after Christmas at 10.30 AM.
 - Wednesday January 1: The Name of Jesus at 12 noon
 - Sunday January 5: Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10.20 AM
 - Monday, January 6: The Epiphany at 6 PM, with the Very Last Christmas Party to follow.