

ST. MARY'S Episcopal Church

December 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10 AM

Thank you for your 2025 Pledges

Al and Sally Alvarez
Bill and Jeri Anderson
Victoria Ault
Thea Agnew-Bemben
Gretchen Bersch
Judy Blair
Sue and Randy Blei
Jason and Moire Bockenstadt
Gregg and Puyong Brelsford
Cathy Davis
Charlene Davis
Sandra DeHart-Mayor and
Michael Mayor
Rich and Kristen Dyson
Kristian Erikson
Muriel and Eugene Furman
Hugh and Janet Gellert
Kris and Don Gilhousen
Linda Johnson
Larry and Patricia Koch
Marie Lavigne
Blair Flannery and Andrea
Meideros
Wade and Lynn Miller
Debbie and Mark Moderow
Marcia Natrass
Tom and Ruth Nighswander
Terry Roth
Alan Sandar
Sara Stoops
Stephanie Whaley
Michael Wilson and Mateo
Banggiacan

Robin Morehouse
Val Glooshenko
Jann and Bob Sherrill
Martha Massey
Eva Shewmaker
Angela and Bridie Hunt
Bob and Bessie Kam
Gretchen Guess
Chris Hyde
Christina Talbott-Clark
Mark Williams
Amy Lindsey
Myrna Clark
Michael and Sunshine
Morrison
Jessica Sulley
Liesl and Marcus Carter and
Family
Kristina Reza
Betsy and Mick Hawley
Jeffrey and Carleta Schroeder
Lois Rockcastle and Eric
Noble
Jerry and Laura Williams
Lindsey Holmes and Jim
Armstrong
Michael and Nancy Burke
Jim and Lisa Lamb
Valerie Baffone
Tracy Fishback Family
Mike and Kathryn
McCormack
Joel and Michelle Bertrand

Judy Brady
Rashmika Paton
Bill and Margaret Sharrow
Thad Hunter
Linda Vosele and Rev. Israel
Portilla-Gomez
Melodee Parker
Becky O'Keefe
Curtis Evans
David Wilkinson
Maggie and Greg Wilkinson
Elizabeth Newell
Mary Furney
Duane and Carol Heyman
Rachel Mason
Maggie and Ross McKay
Debbie Steen
Brad and Susan Sewell
Amy Gruber
Jack and Sherrie Simmonds
Lesley and Simon Harrison
Mike and Jane Harper
Ben Crafton
Jenna Crafton
Ron Pollock and Nancy
Bergh-Pollock
Dierdre and Ernest Shipman
Bob and Karol Libbey
Tracey Burke and Charlie
Tyrell family
Lana Ramos and Eric
Backman
Deb and Steve Kennedy

Trevor and Molly Golden
Allen and Marilyn Bailey
Cole and Jess Barker
Jonathon Bower
Frank Chandler
Steve Ericson
Diane Langston
Thomas Mason
Gus and Alice Smith
Robbin La Vine and Kevin
Tritt
Matt and Janel Kam-Magruder
Joel and Cheryl Bolger
Jim and Penny Cowan
Anne Donaghy
Dana Klinkart
Marty Margeson
Rilene Ann
Jeffrey Hoffman
Chris Cooke and Georgianna
Lincoln
Sarah Stanley
Emily and Rhett Brown
Alyse Galvin
Paul and Alicia Cornils
Sarah Coulson
Laura and Dennis Hanrahan
Geraldine James
Kim Nelson and Johny Jones
Emily Nenon
Lisa Scroggs
Anonymous (13)

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

The ministers of St. Mary's are all the people.

Preacher: The Rev. Michael Burke, Rector

Celebrant: The Rev. Israel Portilla-Gómez, Associate Rector

Readers: Kristina Reza and Charlene Davis

Voice of the People: Kate McClellan

Prayers of the People: Maggie Wilkinson

Musicians: Praise Singers

Media Specialists: Seth Eggleston, Timothy Baker, and Will Weaver

Flowers: Kristina Reza, *in thanksgiving for the birth of Lily*

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

GATHERING MUSIC • *Various selections from the Liturgical Music* • Praise Singers

GATHERING MUSIC • *Dark December*

1. *Oh, should we curse the winter? For being ere so long,
When the trees are black and groaning and every leaf is gone,
And from the silent blackthorn bush
there comes no small bird's song,*

CHORUS: *Oh, should we curse the winter (3x)
And December most of all?*

2. *Oh, should we curse the winter? For being ere so cold,
When the sheep together huddle to keep warm in their fold,
When a man won't leave his fireside unless that man is bold,*

REPEAT CHORUS

3. *Oh, should we curse the winter? For being ere so bleak,
When a man turns up his collar to warm his frozen cheek,
When he hurries though the icebound streets
through rain and sleet and squall*

REPEAT CHORUS

4. *Oh, should we curse the winter? For being ere so dark,
When the sun is late in rising and early to depart,
When the biting northern blizzard winds freeze our very hearts,*

REPEAT CHORUS

5. *No, we should not curse the winter,
with its raging winds and storms.
Likewise the cold and darkness no one on earth should scorn,
For is winter not the season when the Christ child he was born?
Last Chorus: No, we should not curse the winter (3x),
And December least of all.*

LAST CHORUS: *No, we should not curse the winter (3x),
And December least of all.*

WELCOME • The Rev. Michael Burke



*OPENING HYMN • *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* • Hymnal #68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

***OPENING SENTENCES AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Celebrant We gather on the lands of the Dena'ina people.

People *From many places and many peoples we come to this house in prayer.*

Celebrant We gather in the presence of God:

People *The Creator who is the source of all that is, seen and unseen*

Celebrant In hope we walk together with Christ:

People *Our Companion who walks with us and with all peoples on the path of reconciliation.*

Celebrant God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us:

People *The Divine Wisdom who transforms us and all life.*

Celebrant In this time and place, together, people of God from every language, culture, and nation:

People *We are made new by the holy and life-giving Trinity*

***ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING**

Reader People of God: unite!

We await the promise of renewal.

God bending down in love to earth.

God calls you to love one another,
as you have been loved by God.

You are God's children.

People *Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ in Love
today and for ever.*

Amen.

The candle lighter lights the third Advent candle.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Priest God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray.

Priest Stir up your power, O God, 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 for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING • Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader A Reading from Zephaniah.

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,
and has turned away your enemies.

The ruler of Israel, God, 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;

God will rejoice over you with gladness,
and will renew you in love;

God 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

CANTICLE 9

ANTIPHON

F Gm Eb Dm Cm Bb F

Sing the prais-es of the Lo-rd ___ for he has do-ne gr-eat things. Sing the

4 Gm Eb Dm Cm Bb *vamp on Gm*

prais - es of the Lo - rd ___ and cry a - loud ___ your ___ joy!

Plainsong, Tone 3; adapt. Bruce E. Ford / Wilhelmi

Surely, it is the Lord who saves me;
 I will trust in the Lord and not be afraid.
 For God is my stronghold and my sure defense,
 and will be my Savior.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
 from the springs of salvation.
 And on that day you shall say,
 Give thanks to God and call upon the Name;
 Make God's deeds known among the peoples;
 see that they remember that the Name is exalted.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

Sing the praises of God, who 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.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

SECOND READING • Philippians 4:4-7

Reader A Reading from Philippians.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

***GOSPEL HYMN • *The Rebel Jesus* • solo by Lana Ramos**

Silence

Soloist begins to sing,

All the streets are filled with laughter and light
 And the music of the season
 And the merchants' windows are all bright
 With the faces of the children
 And the families hurrying to their homes
 As the sky darkens and freezes
 Will be gathering around their hearths and tables
 Giving thanks for God's graces
 And the birth of the rebel Jesus

Well they call him by the prince of peace
 And they call him by the savior
 And they pray to him upon the seas
 And in every bold endeavor
 And they fill His churches with their pride and gold
 As their faith in Him increases
 But they've turned the nature that I worship in
 From a temple to a robber's den
 In the words of the rebel Jesus

We guard our world with locks and guns
 And we guard our fine possessions
 And once a year when Christmas comes

We give to our relations
 And perhaps we give a little to the poor
 If the generosity should seize us
 But if any one of us should interfere
 In the business of why there are poor
 They get the same as the rebel Jesus

But pardon me if I have seemed
 To take the tone of judgment
 For I've no wish to come between
 This day and your enjoyment
 In a life of hardship and of earthly toil
 There's a need for anything that frees us
 So I bid you pleasure
 And I bid you cheer
 From a heathen and a pagan
 On the side of the rebel Jesus

Writer: Jackson Browne

Copyright: Lyrics © Swallow Turn Music

***GOSPEL • Luke 3:7-18**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Priest 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON • The Rev. Michael Burke



*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH



1. We be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all
 2. We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and
 3. We be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the



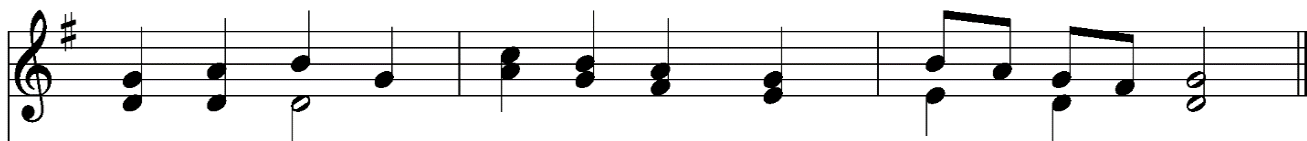
things that be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens,
 cru - ci - fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied—
 saints with - in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly,



Keep - er of the sky and sea. We be - lieve in
 True Life there had tru - ly died. We be - lieve that
 where for - give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's



God's son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it
 on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed
 res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's



and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

*THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we come to the time of the prayers of the people, I invite you to stand or kneel as you are able. There will be a brief time to share our own prayers aloud, if you wish you may also leave your prayers in the offering basket when it is passed so that it can be delivered to our prayer team to be prayed over by the congregation throughout the week. For those online your prayers as well will be delivered to the prayer team, even if they are not read aloud.

Pause before continuing.

In hope we pray to God our Creator.

Silence

O God, who sent to us our Savior, whose Body is your Church, grant that all who wait for Christ may be united in your truth, live in your peace, and reveal your love to the world.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, whose Kingdom holds heaven and earth as one, grant our leaders and all in authority would be convicted to love justice and govern rightly so that all people might live in safety; and where there is oppression, injustice, and inequity, we pray that your light would show forth and that the world might be healed.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, whose Spirit comes among us to inspire and to restore, grant peace, healing, and hope to the sick, the hungry, the naked, and the imprisoned; the migrant, the refugee, the unemployed, and the unhoused; those who are victims of violence, those who struggle with mental health, and those whose lives are overtaken by turmoil and chaos.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who created this lovely world, grant to your people the desire, the knowledge and the determination to be proper stewards of the earth, that all may share in your bounty and your peace.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who knows our needs and concerns, and cares for us even as you care for the birds of the air and the flower in the field, we lift up these petitions that weigh on our hearts this week.

Silence, the people may add their own prayers or petitions here.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

O God, who brings us the living water and leads us to eternal life, grant to the dying and those who mourn your comfort and your peace.

Silence.

God, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

A Priest says

Together, praying,

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.

A Priest 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.**

***THE PEACE**

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the People may greet one another in the name of God.

SERVICE OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

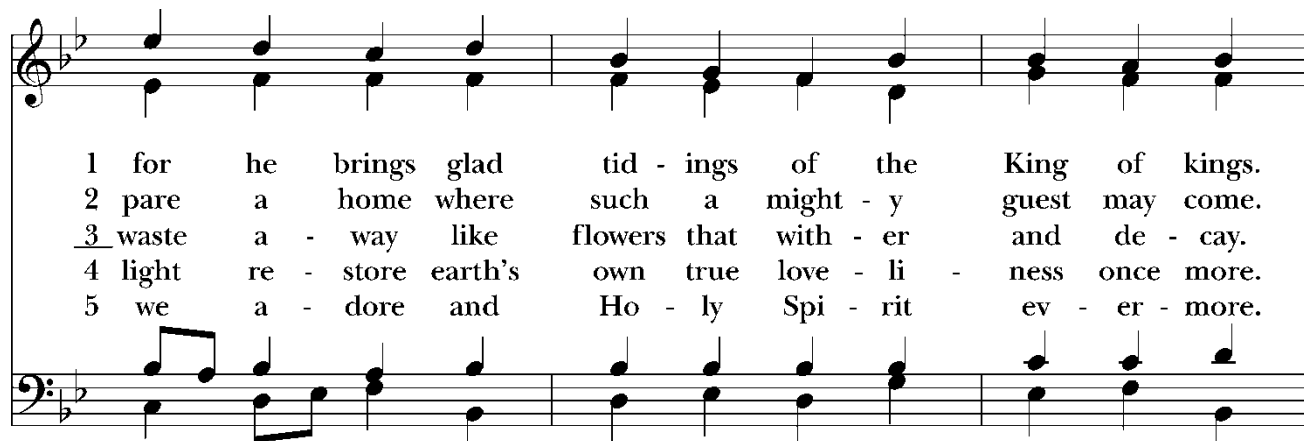
Offerings toward the work and ministry of St. Mary's may be made by texting StMarysAK to 73256, at GodsView.org, or by using this QR code:

**OFFERTORY HYMN • On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry • Hymnal #76, v. 1-3**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

-next page-



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

*DOXOLOGY

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

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord;

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

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
 almighty God and everlasting Creator,
 through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
 he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
 to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
 we now watch for the day
 when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and *singing*:

SANCTUS • WLP 854

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.

San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, ho san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

A priest continues

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.


You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another,
and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.
On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:

This is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.” 

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.” 

A priest says Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.


A priest continues

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your children, that with all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

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.** 

Priest As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, singing:

2

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your
 Name, your king-dom come, your
 will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
 Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For -
 give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a -
 gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the
 king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are
 yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men, A - men.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People *therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

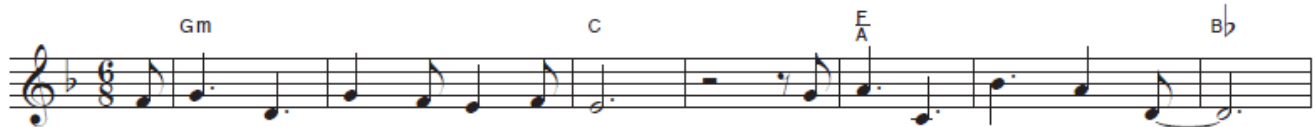
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

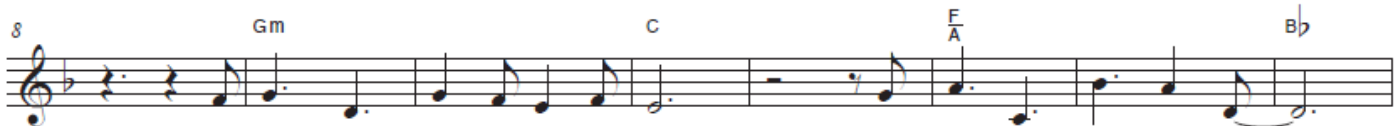
This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow, and you who feel you have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

COMMUNION HYMN • *Some Children See Him (Instrumental)*

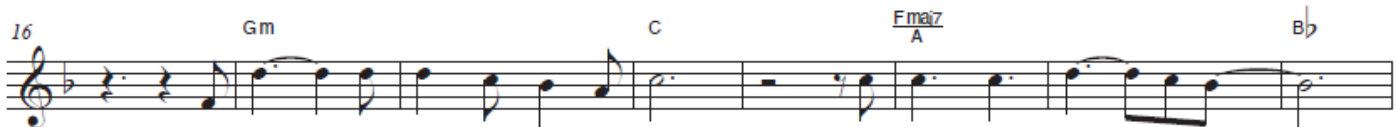
COMMUNION HYMN • *He Comes* • Kate Bluett, Paul Zach



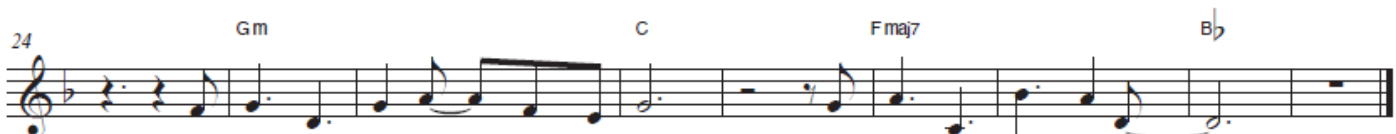
1. He comes, the Lord's a - noin - ted One, and we shall see His face ____
 2. He comes, not to the wise and great, but to the bound and poor, ____
 3. He comes, and we shall go to Him, set free from an - cient chains, ____



as clear as if the ri - sing sun poured out the light of grace. ____
 so low Him - self that po - ten - tates must kneel to pass His door. ____
 a - dorned in mer - cy's di - a - dem to glo - ry in His reign. ____



He comes, and we shall hear His voice, not as some dis - tant sound, ____
 He comes, with fa - vor in His hands, our emp - ty souls _ to fill, ____
 He comes, the Lord, as one of us; He comes to judge the earth: ____



but tones that make the _ heart re - joice when love, long lost, is found. ____
 to make a high - way _ through the sands and bid the storms be still. ____
 how won - der - ful, how _ glo - ri - ous His long a - wait - ed birth! ____

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion, a priest says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth

a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING OUT EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant: (Name), in the name of this congregation, we send you to share our Eucharist with _____. May you take the prayers of all of us as you deliver the sacrament of Christ's presence.

All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in the one cup!

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS

Watch over your child, O God, as their days increase; bless and guide them where ever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful, raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding, abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Send, O God, your blessing upon these your servants. Sustain them in their love and commitment to each other, that their home may be a place of peace and hospitality now and always. Amen.

SOBRIETY

Bless, O God, your servant in their work of recovery; defend them in their sobriety; and bless them with strength and wisdom now and always. Amen.

WORK TRANSITION OR RETIREMENT

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family; now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Guide them in the continued use of your gifts; provide sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer the way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING SONG

May the blessing of God be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son. And may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love, be with you all your days.*

**Spirit of Peace [second verse]*

*RECESSIONAL HYMN • *The King Shall Come* • Hymnal #73, v. 1,3,5

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

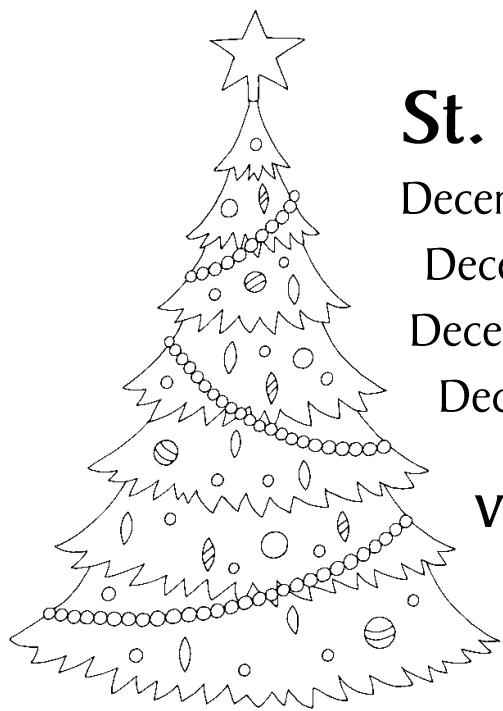
1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

DISMISSAL

Priest Break forth together into singing,
 for the Lord has comforted God's people.
 As we await our coming Savior
 let us walk in the Love of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*



St. Mary's Christmas Services

December 24 at 4:00 pm: Family Christmas Service

December 24 at 9:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

December 25 at 10:00 am: Christmas Day Service

December 29 at 10:00 am: Lessons and Carols

Visit GodsView.org for more information!

GROUPS CURRENTLY ACTIVE AT ST. MARY'S

Call (907)563-3341 for more information

Short Informal Service, followed by breakfast – *Wed. mornings 7:00 -7:20 am*

Men's Small Group Bible Study – *Thurs. mornings 7:00 - 8:00 am*

Fierce Women's Bible Study – *Mondays at 6:00 pm*

Afternoon Bible Study (Book of Job) – *Fridays at 1:00 pm*

Women's Book Group

Christian dream work and reflection groups

Taizé-style worship – *Third Thursdays at 7pm in the Chapel (in the A-frame)*

Scouts, *for info call Brad Sewell, 346-4314*

Women's Knitting Circle

Bazaar Team (craft making, jams, jellies, fabric art). *Times vary throughout year*

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation, *various times, Waldron Hall*

Sr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Jr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Sunday School, *ages 4-19 Sundays 11:30 am-12:30 pm downstairs level*

Godly Play (*Montessori-based exploration of the stories of Jesus (ages 4 and up)*),
Sundays, 10 am, downstairs level

Sanctuary Choir, *Rehearse Wednesdays 6:15 – 7:15 pm*

Praise Singers roots music group. *Rehearse Wednesdays 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm*

Christians for Equality (Social Justice) *Meets monthly 563-3341 ext. 14 for info*

Anchorage Faith and Action – *Congregations Together. Community organizing.*

St. Mary's Creative Playschool events

Numerous events at The Thomas Center for Senior Leadership

And various retreats, workshop, presentations, outreach teams, & celebrations all year long.

Looking for community, fellowship, and service? Come join us!

Starting next week, in order to remain mindful of resources and to allow room for Christmas liturgy, pledge acknowledgements will no longer be posted in the bulletin.

We will, however, continue to post them in the narthex.

Thank you again to everyone who pledged, prayed, or participated in *any* way in ensuring that our vibrant and inclusive church community can continue our mission:

To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known.

If you are still intending to make your pledge, you can do so directly online at:

www.GodsView.tiny.us/Pledge2025



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THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

December 15-22, 2024



Scan QR code or visit

<https://www.GodsView.org/newsletter-signup/>

to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

Sunday, December 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8 am **Service of Holy Eucharist**
Chapel
- 9 am **Light of the World Book Study**
Cay's Room
- 9 am **Children's Christian Formation**
Downstairs classrooms
- 10 am **Service of Holy Eucharist**
Sanctuary & online; ID 940 3189 1877
- 10 am **Christmas Pageant Rehearsals**
Various classrooms
- 10 am **Godly Play**
Room 1
- 11:30 am **Third Sunday Potluck Lunch**
Waldron Hall
- 4 pm **Evening Prayer**
Sanctuary
- 6 pm **Book Launch and Reading**
Waldron Hall

Monday, December 16

- 6 pm **Fierce Women Bible Study**
Room 7 (downstairs)
- 7 pm **Outreach Team Meeting**
Cay's Room & online;
ID 873 7864 5166

Tuesday, December 17*No scheduled church events***Wednesday, December 18**

- 7 am **Service of Holy Eucharist**
Sanctuary & online; ID 584 949 088
- 12 pm **Caring Ministries Team**
Cay's Room & online;
ID 823 7969 4537

6:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

6:30 pm Women's Book Club

Online; ID 864 8947 7980

Thursday, December 19**7 am Men's Group**

Waldron Hall

7 pm Taizé Service

Chapel

Friday, December 20**1 pm Book of Job Bible Study**

Cay's Room

Saturday, December 21**10 am St. Mary's Dreamers**email SMCdreamers907@gmail.com**Sunday, December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent****8 am Service of Holy Eucharist**

Chapel

9 am Christian Formation

Cay's Room & classrooms

10 am Service of Holy Eucharist

Sanctuary & online; ID 940 3189 1877

10 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Various classrooms

11:20 am Fellowship Hour

Waldron Hall

4 pm Evening Prayer

Sanctuary