



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
10 a.m

We welcome you to Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1839, this Christian community has gathered for worship. To learn more about the ministries we share in this place, you are invited to fill in one of the welcome cards found in the pew rack. We are glad you are here!

 *The Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.*

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

THE REV. ELIZABETH PARKER, *Assisting Priest*
Celebrant

*The Liturgy is found in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP).
Hymns and service music (S) are in The Hymnal 1982.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, Op. 122, No. 8 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

HYMN 56 (verses 1, 6, and 7) *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *BCP page 355*
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *page 355*

TRISAGION S 102 Alexander Archangelsky (1846–1924)

*The Trisagion is sung three times, first by the cantor and
then twice by the congregation and choir.*

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 for ever. **Amen.**

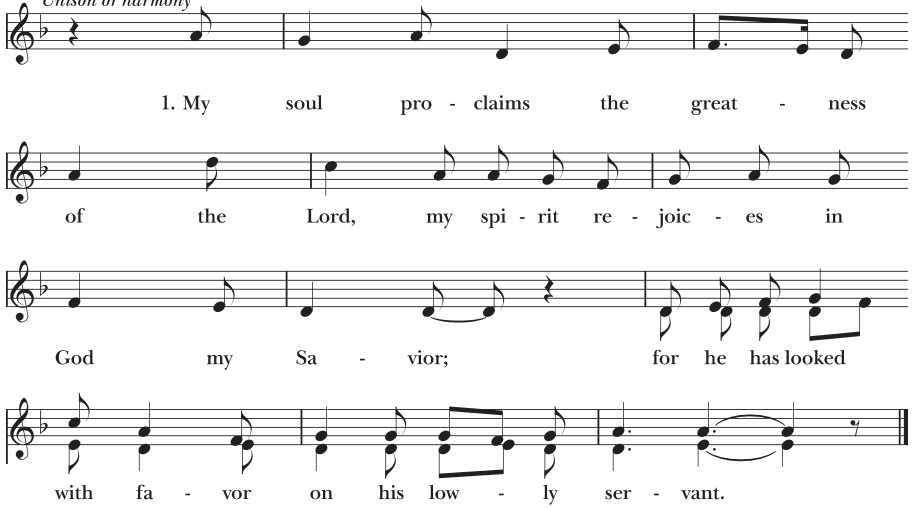
THE FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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

The Antiphon is first sung by the cantor and then repeated by the congregation and choir. It is then sung as indicated by the cantor.

Antiphon

Unison or harmony



1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness
of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in
God my Sa - vior; for he has looked
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

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 generation.

Antiphon

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

Antiphon

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.

Antiphon

THE SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 66

Stuttgart

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

After the Gospel reading, the Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Ray Wilson, Assisting Priest

THE NICENE CREED

page 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form IV, page 388

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

page 360

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord, after which
the people are seated for brief announcements.*

The Holy Communion

Offerings of alms and bread and wine are received.

AT THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

Eleanor Daley (b.1955)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favoured lady; Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born
In Beth’em, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

—*The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

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 him thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to

walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with saints and angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS S 129

Robert Powell (b.1932)

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER CONTINUES

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

page 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The sacrament of Holy Communion has been precious to Christians for 2,000 years. It is a way in which many sense the reality of God's forgiveness, our union with God and each other, and the eternal life to which we belong. Please know that you do not have to be an Episcopalian to receive Communion. To receive, you may kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive the Bread in the palm of your hand and the Wine either by drinking from the cup or by intinction, touching the Bread to the Wine. Gluten-free Bread is available; simply ask at the altar rail. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.

AT THE ADMINISTRATION

ANTHEM

Fred Gramann (b.1950)

As Joseph was a-walking,
he heard an angel sing:
“This night there shall be born
on earth our heav’nly King.”

“He neither shall be clothed
in purple nor in pall,
But in the fair white linen
As where the babies all.”

“He neither shall be born
in housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise,
but in an ox’s stall.”

“He neither shall be rocked
in silver nor in gold,
But in a wooden cradle
that rocks upon the mould.”

—anon. *English, c.1400*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

page 365

THE BLESSING

HYMN 74

Valet will ich dir geben

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter (b.1939)

Readings this Week from the *Revised Common Lectionary*

THE OLD TESTAMENT

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.

THE EPISTLE

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! Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

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.

The Book of Remembrance

This week we remember Henry Anthony Grichuk.
