



Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM & 9:30 AM
The First Sunday of Advent
St. John's Episcopal Church
December 1, 2024

Please make room for those arriving after you by sitting toward the middle of the pew. Thank you.

*Families with young children: A worship bag is available for your child in the Narthex (lobby of the church).
These bags contain activities and materials to help your child engage in worship.*

Please refrain from applause during worship.

All stand as able when the bell is rung.

The ministers enter the church in silence.

All remain standing as able for

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The First Sunday of Advent

The Siaw Family

Leader As the nights lengthen and the days grow shorter,

People We turn to you O Christ, the Light of the world.

Leader We remember your coming long ago, and that you are with us now,

People And we look for your coming again as we wait for the celebration of your birth.

The first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit.

Leader As the light from this candle shines among us, may the blessing of Christ Jesus come to us;

People Help us to remember that God is our sure and certain hope.

Leader God with us in the past, God with us in the present, God with us in the future. As we behold the light of this candle, we remember that darkness cannot put out the light, even of one small candle.

Let us pray together in silence.

In the silence, you may

Breathe in: My hope is in God;

Breathe out: whose light shines among us.

Leader May we carry Hope with us on our way.

Advent Candle-Lighting Hymn
#56 vs. 1 & 2, The Hymnal 1982

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.
Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Appointed: 25:1-9 (*Read in unison*)

p. 614, Book of Common Prayer

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.**
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.**
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as able for

**The Sequence Hymn (9:30 AM)
#889, Wonder, Love & Praise vss. 1-2**

Blessed be the God of Israel

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.
Music: Annabeth McClelland Gay

1 Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with his mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all that wish us harm.

2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham;
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Luke 21:25-36

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn continued

3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease,
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rev. Mawethu Ncaca, Associate Rector

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.

**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

*The People say the responses in **bold**.*

Leader Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

For the peace of the world and for our unity in Christ, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, and for Samuel and Jennifer, our bishops in the Diocese of North Carolina. For all who minister in your Church, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For travelers; for the sick and the suffering; for the hungry and the oppressed; and for those who are in prison, let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list: **Rex, Maren, Pat, Barbara, Marilyn, Cindy, Paul, Brooks, Margaret, Marita, Carol, Monica, and Norm.** We pray for those whose needs are known to you alone, and for all those we name to you now....

Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For all those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Fr. Mawethu, Anna Coleman, Genevive Terilli, Bob Barnum, Joe Perez, Dave Nelson, Margaret Apps, and Tammy Warriner. Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the dead and for the dying, especially all those we name to you now.....

Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ, our Lord. Let us pray: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Celebrant God of joy and exultation, you strengthen hands that are weak; you bring good news to the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon the needs of your people this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

p. 360, Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

ALL 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.

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

Please be seated

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

An Advent Awakening

Text by Bert Stratton/Music by Vicki Tucker Courtney

CANTATE

Awaken, our Savior is coming. Make straight the way and prepare.
He's coming to free and forgive us from darkness, pain, and despair.

Rise up and sing to the heavens. Praise His reign without end.

Our holy Savior is coming.

Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! Amen.

Be ready, Messiah is coming. Tune ev'ry heart with praise.

He is coming to save us shining with glory and grace.

Salvation's wonderful glory will shine through the darkest of nights.

Give praise and thanks to the Savior.

Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! Amen.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Prepare Emmanuel's coming. Prepare for He's coming at last.

From the root of Jesse will spring forth a heavenly branch.

One that is mighty and righteous who'll vanquish sadness and strife,

Grants us His kingdom forever.

Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! Amen. Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! Amen.

Please stand as able

The Doxology

(7:45 am—spoken)

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

**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. Amen.**

All stand as able for
The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Officiant It is right, and a good and joyful thing....

...who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus—Holy, holy holy (7:45 AM spoken—9:30 AM sung)

Music by Jonathan Dimmock

#850, Wonder, Love and Praise (green hymnal)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...
...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant Continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all

...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 forever. **Amen**

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**All 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.**

All stand as able

The Breaking of the Bread

At 7:45 AM, spoken:

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ
our Passover is
sacrificed for us.

**People Therefore let us
keep the feast.**

At 9:30 AM (sung, right):

#866, Wonder, Love & Praise
(green hymnal)

Music: Owen Burdick

The musical notation is arranged in four staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, the second for the Choir, and the third and fourth for the Congregation & Choir. The lyrics are: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. ia. Christ our Pass-over is sacrificed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The People stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues

The Communion of the People *(please sanitize your hands before coming forward)*

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher.

At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

Communion Hymn (9:30 AM)

#724, Wonder, Love & Praise *(green hymnal)*

People, look East

Words: Eleanor Farjeon
Music: harm. John L. Hooker

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love, the guest is on the way.</p> <p>2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: Love, the rose is on the way.</p> <p>3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look East and sing today: Love, the bird is on the way.</p> | <p>4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East and sing today: Love, the star is on the way.</p> <p>5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.</p> |
|---|--|

The Postcommunion Prayer (for those who have shared in Communion in person)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion (For those worshipping with us remotely at 9:30 AM)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the People.

(9:30 AM) All children & youth here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the next hymn. Our youth will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.

The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)
#73, The Hymnal 1982

The King shall come when morning dawns

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie
(1859-1925), alt.
Music: St. Stephen

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks;
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not, as of old, a little child,
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

3 The King shall come when morning dawns
and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that e'er shall last;

4 And let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings.

The Dismissal

Children of the Parish
All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fughetta on 'Besacon'

Setting by Richard Shepherd

*Celebrate Christmas
with St. John's*

**DEC 24
CHRISTMAS EVE**

4 PM FAMILY-FRIENDLY EUCHARIST
WITH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

7 PM TRADITIONAL EUCHARIST WITH
HANDBELLS, CANTATA CHOIR &
WIND ENSEMBLE

**DEC 25
CHRISTMAS DAY**

8 AM CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST
IN-PERSON

St. John's Quick Links

For more information, use your smartphone camera to scan the QR codes below
(or browse our website at www.stjohnswf.org)

I'M NEW
www.stjohnswf.org/
contact, or scan code



MINISTRY MATCH
Explore your gifts
for ministry



**CHURCH
CALENDAR**
www.stjohnswf.org/
calendar or scan code



PARISH NEWS
www.stjohnswf.org/
news, or scan code



REQUEST PRAYER
Call Barb Kwiatek at
919-556-3656, or scan
code

