

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**The Holy Eucharist Rite Two**  
**Sunday, December 21, 2025**



**The Very Reverend Allison Burns-LaGreca, Rector**  
**Mr. Curtis McKonly, Organist**

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
9425 Third Ave., Stone Harbor, NJ 08247  
[www.stmarysstoneharbor.org](http://www.stmarysstoneharbor.org) 609-368-5922



# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

### ENTRANCE HYMN *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

HYMNAL 56



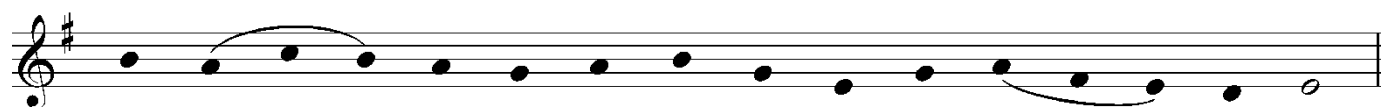
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*        Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People*        **You come to your people and set them free.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant may say*

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.**

## OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE

*The following is sung, all standing*

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

## 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 Lessons

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>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.”

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## **PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Remain seated.*

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>16</sup>Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- <sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- <sup>18</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

*The people remain seated.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

- <sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the

gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh<sup>4</sup> 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,<sup>5</sup> 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,<sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

*All stand.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN** *To the name of our salvation*

**HYMNAL 249**

1 To the Name of our sal - va - tion laud and hon - or  
2 Je - sus is the Name we trea - sure; Name be - yond what  
3 'Tis the Name that who - so preach - eth speaks like mu - sic  
4 There-fore we, in love a - dor - ing, this most bless - ed

let us pay, which for man - ya gen - er - a - tion  
words can tell; Name of glad - ness, Name of plea - sure,  
to the ear; who in prayer this Name be - seech - eth  
Name re - vere, ho - ly Je - sus, thee im - plor - ing

hid in God's fore - know - ledge lay; but with ho - ly  
car and heart de - light - ing well; Name of sweet - ness,  
sweet - est com - fort find - eth near; who its per - fect  
so to write it in us here that here - af - ter,



## GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

**The Very Reverend Allison Burns-LaGreca**

## **THE CREED**

*All stand.*

**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.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All remain standing.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us appeal to the Lord praying, “Restore us, O God of hosts; *Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*”

We ask you, O God, to bless your Church. Give us your grace. Stir up your strength and come to help us even as we declare the gospel concerning your Son.

*Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless this nation. May our leaders not trust in their own strength but in you, O God of hosts. Teach us to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless this planet. By your creative power bring forth new life in the places in which we have reaped too much or sown too little.

*Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless our city. Let your hand be upon us. Guide and strengthen all those who find themselves in difficult situations—especially young and single parents.

*Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless all those who are distressed. Hear their prayers, O Shepherd of the flock. May they take comfort in the knowledge that you are with them.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless all who have died. Welcome into your heavenly kingdom all who are called to be saints.

*Silence*

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
*Show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*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.**

*The Priest stands and 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

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Celebrant says*

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Psalms 96:8*

### OFFERTORY HYMN *Come, thou long expected Jesus*

**HYMNAL 66**



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# The Great Thanksgiving

## SURSUM CORDA

*The People stand.*

*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.**

## PROPER PREFACE

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

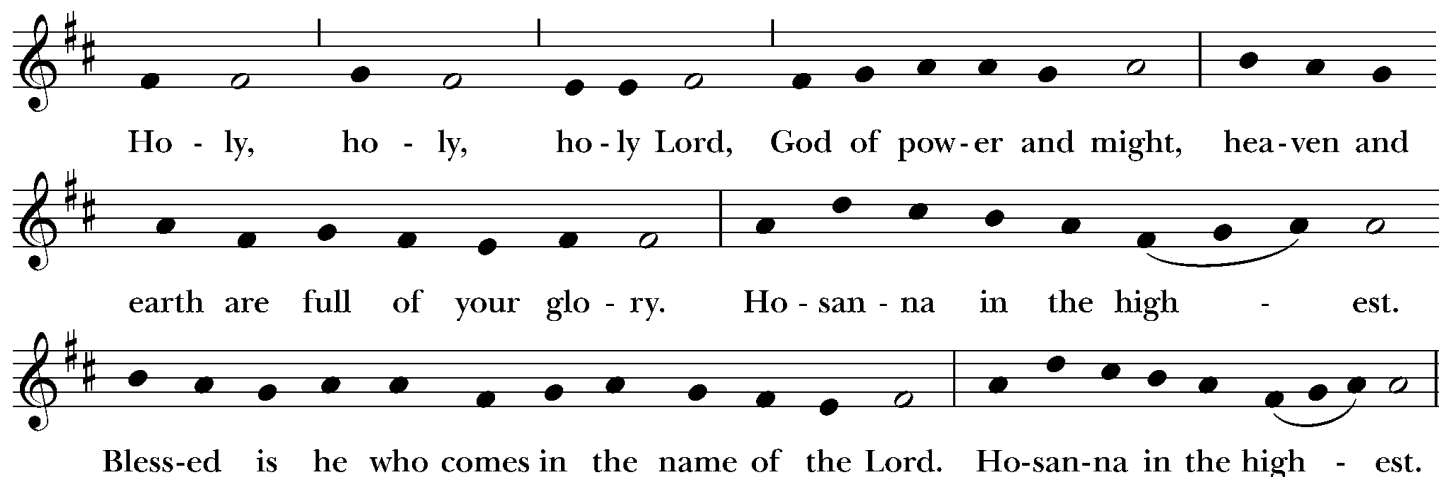
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS S 124** *Holy, holy, holy* - Hurd

*Celebrant and People*



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.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

## **EPICLESIS**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

**FRACTION ANTHEM** S 161 *Lamb of God* - Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## **INVITATION**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

*All stand.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

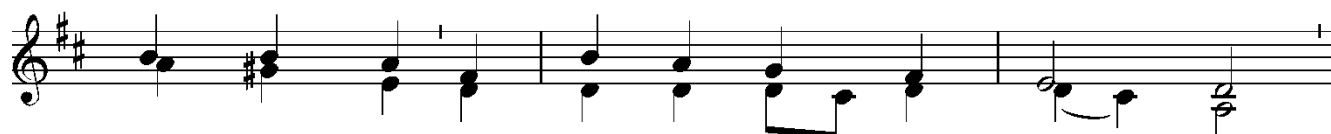
The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *How bright appears the Morning Star*

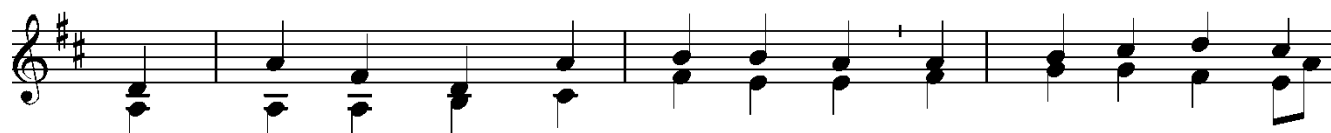
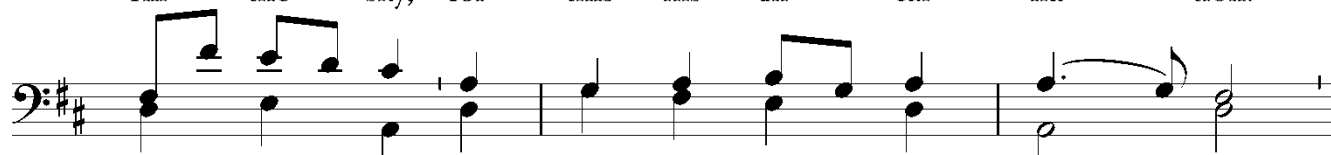
HYMNAL 497



1 How bright ap - pears the Morn-ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,



from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.



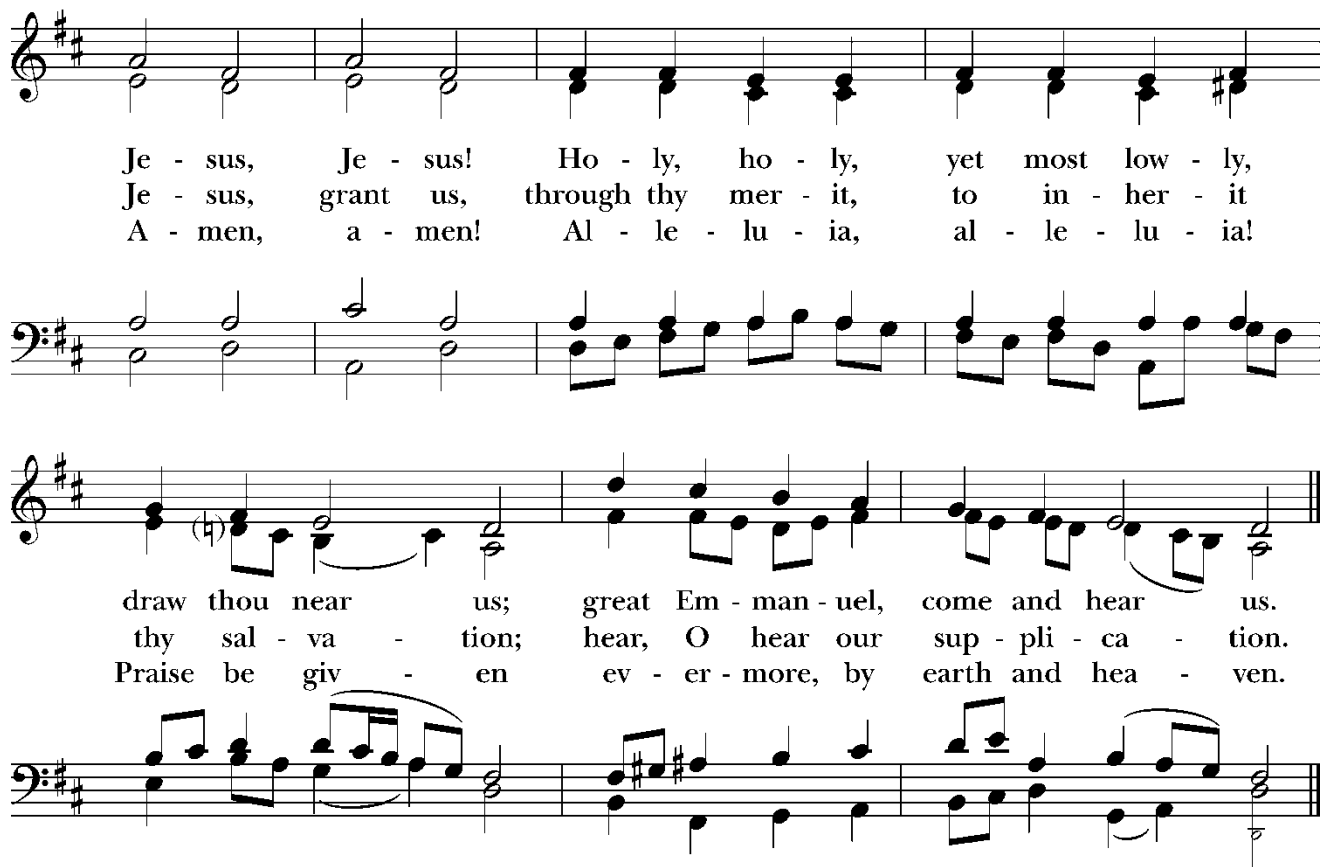
O right-eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great



Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.







Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

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**Eucharistic Minister:** Jack Olthuis  
**Usher:** Larry Schmidt

**Reader:** Cathy Johnson  
**Greeter:** Yvonne Olthuis

## Recovery Meetings at St. Mary's

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
 Monday 7:30 pm OV  
 Saturday 12:30 pm

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
 Tuesday 8 pm OSD  
 Thursday 7 pm BB

**AL-ANON**  
 Friday 9 am beginner  
 Friday 10 am OD

***The Light We Carry***, An Advent Journey through Hope, Peace Joy and Love  
 by The Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca may be found on the table in the church. Please  
 help yourself to a booklet.

**Christmas Eve**, Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, will be celebrated at 8:00 pm.

*St. Mary's Episcopal  
Church*



CHRISTMAS EVE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH  
8:00 PM

ALL WELCOME!



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THE VERY REVEREND ALLISON BURNS-LAGRECA, RECTOR