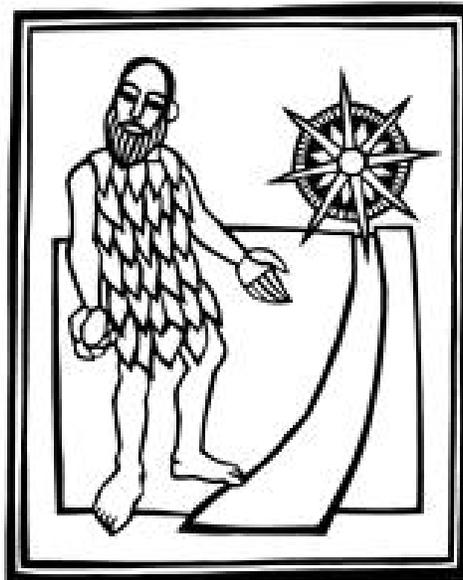


Third Sunday of Advent
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Sunday, December 14, 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 609-368-5922

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN *Hark the glad sound! The savior comes* HYMNAL 72

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

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.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 146:4-9

Remain seated.

- ⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise forever;
⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
⁹The LORD shall reign forever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter of James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

All stand.

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

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. 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.

Sisters and brothers, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Let us seek the Lord praying, “Let us see your glory, O Lord; *Come to us and save us!*”

Lord, save your Church from weakness of heart. Give us strength to prepare this world for the coming of your Christ. And give us patience when it seems Christ’s kingdom does not come quickly enough.

Silence

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
 Come to us and save us!

Lord, save this nation from disordered priorities and misplaced hope. May our values mirror your values. May we be a nation that gives justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and care to the stranger.

Silence

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
Come to us and save us!

Lord, save your creation from human misuse. Bless us to play a part in the redemption you have planned for all of creation.

Silence

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
Come to us and save us!

Lord, save this city from hopelessness. Give us a vision and a future. Raise up prophets who will speak hope and encouragement to the people of our region.

Silence

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
Come to us and save us!

Lord, save the sick and the sorrowful in the midst of their affliction. May they experience the healing work of their Messiah. Make happy all those who have you for their help.

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

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
Come to us and save us!

Lord, bless all members of your heavenly kingdom. May they obtain eternal joy and gladness in your presence—where sorrow and sighing are no more.

Silence

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
Come to us and save us!

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or 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.
Psalm 96:8

OFFERTORY HYMN “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee HYMNAL 615

1 “Thy king - dom come!” on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;
2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;
3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;
4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,
5 when know-ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king-dom's day.
2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.
3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:
4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;
5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

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

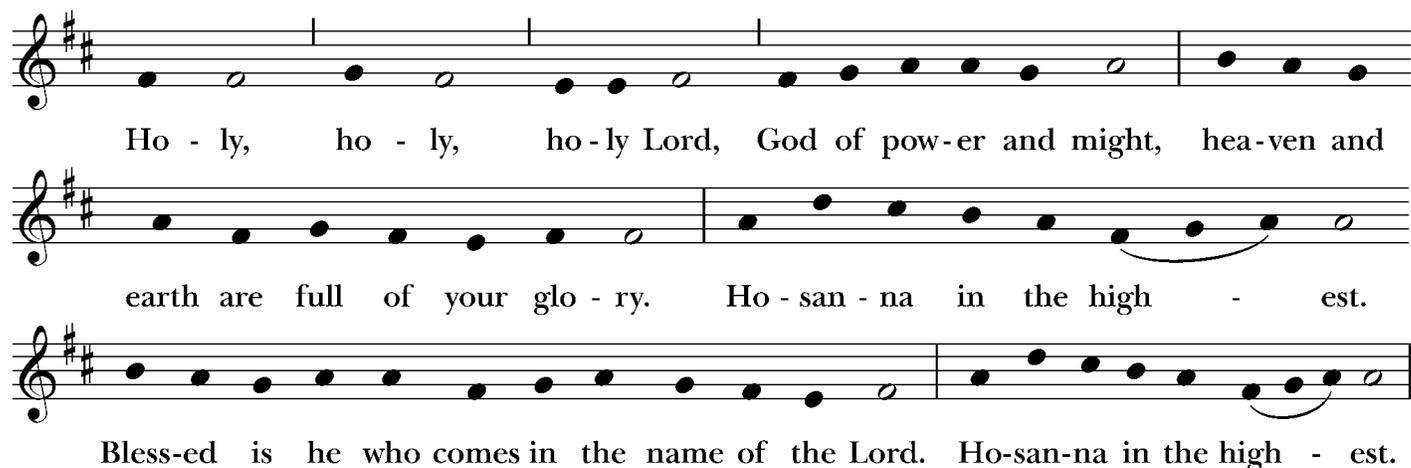
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

HYMNAL 437

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with four different versions of the text. The first version is '1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!', the second is '2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!', the third is '3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!', and the fourth is '4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!'. The musical notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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Eucharistic Minister: Jack Olthuis **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 24th, will be celebrated at 8:00 pm.



Christmas Flower Offerings



The beauty of St. Mary's Church at Christmas is made possible through the participation of many parishioners. Poinsettias will be left on the altar to decorate the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season, after which some will be taken by parishioners and others will be brought to the sick and shut-in. ***The deadline for inclusion of the name of loved ones or thank offerings in the bulletin is Dec. 19th.*** Please use the following form to indicate your wishes as to how your memorial/thank offering is to be listed. Place the form and your offering in the collection plate or mail it to the Parish Office. Your offering to make our Church festive and beautiful for the Christmas Season is appreciated.

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Enclosed is a check made payable to St. Mary's Church for \$ _____.

I _____ do _____ do not wish to take a plant at the end of the Christmas Season.

Your Name(s):

*St. Mary's Episcopal
Church*



CHRISTMAS EVE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
8:00 PM

ALL WELCOME!



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