



# The Holy Eucharist

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Sunday, December 18, 2016

*Newcomers and visitors, we welcome you warmly.  
May you find here, by the grace of God, that which feeds your soul.  
May you leave here with a heart prepared to serve.*

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

all stand

*BCP, page 323*

Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*adapted from* The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

Celebrant Today we light the first, second, third and fourth candles of the Advent Wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Celebrant Jesus said to them, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - *John 13:34*

People **Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.**

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

all say together

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**TRISAGION**

said three times

*BCP*, page 324

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
People **Have mercy upon us.**

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son Jesus Christ cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**ADVENT PRAYER FOR INTERIM TIME** all say together

**O God, in this season of expectation be with us as we seek a new Rector.**

**Mercifully direct us as we search for a leader to guide us in the way of your son, Jesus, as we strive to illuminate the darkness of the world with His light. Instill in us a vision of Christ's family, that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we may be filled with hope, united in love, and joyful in pursuing our mission here on earth. In the name of Christ, our mediator and redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

all sit

Isaiah 7:10-16

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

read responsively by half verse

*BCP*, pp. 702-703**SECOND READING**

Romans 1:1-7

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

all stand

Matthew 1:18-25

Response after the Deacon introduces the Gospel  
Response at the end of the Gospel reading

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.  
Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## THE HOMILY

The Very Rev. Dr. Don Brown

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

**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

Leader In the waning light of Advent, we embrace the mystery of waiting.

People **O God, give us patience to rest in this season of anticipation.**

Leader All that is becoming is hidden from our sight.

People **O God, help us to trust your promise of the light that is to come.**

Leader Your people share feelings of longing and passion for a world of justice and peace.

People **O God, be a lamp before our feet on this journey.**

Leader The saints did not hide their light under a basket, but served as torchbearers of love.

People **O God, make us reflections of your love to those who need it most.**

Leader Countless memories of all who have died bring both grief and hope.

People **O God, we await the birth of the marriage of heaven and earth.**

Leader We pray especially for those who have invited our concern ...

The Deacon offers prayers from the St. Mary's Prayer List  
and invites the congregation to add theirs.

Deacon Life-giving God, you hovered over the waters of the deep before all time began. Hover over our anxious hearts, heavy with worry and vibrant with hope, that in this season of anticipation we might faithfully tend the mysteries before us and prepare joyfully for your coming again. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

all kneel or stand

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II** all stand

*BCP*, page 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

The celebrant continues...

Celebrant Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS

*BCP*, page 341

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

The people kneel or stand. The Celebrant continues....

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BCP, page 336*

All those who wish to are invited to hold hands during this prayer.

**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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

all stand and say together

*BCP, page 339*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## SENDING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR \*

\*when needed

Celebrant N., in the name of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts to \_\_\_\_\_. Together we share in the body and blood of Christ.

People **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.**

## THE BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Upcoming Events

### at The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

- December 24    3:00 pm    **Christmas Pageant**  
Costumed players and live animals
- 5:00 pm    **Christmas Eve Eucharist** with Children's & Youth Choirs
- 8:30 pm    **Candlelight Carol Sing**  
Parish Choir and Brass Ensemble
- 9:00 pm    **Candlelight Eucharist**  
Parish Choir and Brass Ensemble
- December 25    10:00 am    **Holy Eucharist with Carols**

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## LITURGICAL STAFF

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**The Very Rev. Dr. Donald G. Brown**  
Interim Rector

**The Rev. Dr. Deborah White**  
Interim Co-Rector

**The Rev. Claire Dietrich Ranna**  
Associate Rector

**Eric Choate**  
Interim Director of Music

**Marla Perkins**  
Interim Children's Choir Director

**Natalie Hala**  
Verger & Liturgist

**The Rev. Tim Smith**  
Deacon

**The Rev. Nancy Bryan**  
Deacon