

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop

The Rev. James M. Dorn III, Rector

352.460.9580 · jmdorn3@gmail.com

7:45 am Service • Holy Eucharist Rite I

The Service is found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) which is the red book in the pew rack.

The Word of God

Greetings and Announcements

Advent Prayer

Let us pray. Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Opening Acclamation

BCP, Page 323

The Collect for Purity

BCP, Page 323

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

BCP, Page 324

Glory Be to God on High

BCP, Page 324

The Collect of the Day

Insert

The First Lesson

Insert

The Psalm *(said in unison)*

Insert

The Epistle

Insert

The Gospel

Insert

The Sermon

Father Jim Dorn

A Moment of Silence

The Nicene Creed

BCP, Page 326

The Prayers of the People

Insert

Confession of Sin

BCP, Page 329

The Peace

BCP, Page 332

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The Offertory

The Offertory Prayer *(said by all)*

God of our future, whose compassion is unlimited, all that we have is yours and to you we shall give account for all you have given us. As we offer you these gifts we enjoy from your bounty, grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first your kingdom, on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP, Page 333

The Sanctus

BCP, Page 334

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, Page 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP, Page 337

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP, Page 337

Administration of Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, Page 339

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitors *(said by all when needed)*

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings
Blessing
Dismissal

BCP, Page 830 & 431
BCP, Page 339

Talk to God before Church. Listen to God during Church. Talk to each other after Church.

The Collect

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.**

Old Testament
Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. A 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. No 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. And 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.

Psalm 146:4-9

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

The Epistle James 5:7-10

Reader A Reading from the letter of James.

Be 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As 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.

The Gospel
Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

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

Truly 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.**