

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth 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. All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. **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

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.**

Old Testament

Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

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

**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

**You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

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

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

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

The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 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, 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, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 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.

The Gospel
Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 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.**