

December 22, 2024 | Holy Eucharist Rite II | Advent Four

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick MA

Prelude

Mark Hayes arrangements

Opening Hymn

Blue hymnal #73

"The king shall come"

Liturgy of the Word

Book of Common Prayer, pg 355

Advent Candle Lighting

Blue hymnal #56

"O Come. O Come, Emmanuel" v. 7-8

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**

Readings

A reading from the book of Micah (5:2-5a)

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We will read Canticle 15 responsively by whole verse.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10)

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel hymn

Blue hymnal #60

"Creator of the stars at night"

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:39-45)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was promised to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Katy Denning

Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer, pg 358

Prayers of the People

Form III, Book of Common Prayer, pg 387

Confession and Absolution

Book of Common Prayer, pg 360

The Peace & Announcements

Offertory Music

“Ave Maria” by Rachel Burckardt

Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low; praise

7
God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The second system starts with a fermata over the first measure and then continues with a treble and bass staff.

Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

Book of Common Prayer, pg 367

Sanctus

Blue hymnal #S125

Communion Hymn

Blue hymnal#490 “I want to walk as a child of the light”

Post-Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, pg 365

Closing Hymn

Blue hymnal #61

“Sleepers, wake!”

Dismissal

Clergy Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“On Christmas night all Christians sing”, arr. Marianne Kim

Today’s flowers are given in loving memory of:

Jim & Pat Donahue by Beth Donahue

&

Phil & Aurelie Lamb by the Lamb/Sharpe family

Join us for Christmas!

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24th

11 am | Sensory-Friendly Simple Christmas Worship

4 pm | Christmas Service with Eucharist

7 pm | Christmas Service with Eucharist

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25th:

10 a.m. | Christmas Day Eucharist

On Sunday, December 29,
we will have only **one service** at 10 a.m.

January 5, 2025:

Epiphany Worship & Christmas Pageant!

As the Christmas season draws to a close...Let us gather to tell the story of the Birth of Christ and to celebrate the warmth of community with an all-are-welcome Christmas Pageant **during the 10 a.m. Sunday Eucharist on January 5th.**

See the website or weekly emails for more information!