The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 18, 2022
11:15 a.m.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
Atlanta, Georgia
**Welcome**

We are so happy you’re with us this morning! If you’d like to learn more about getting involved at St. Luke’s, please fill out our online visitor card using the QR code below. You can also contact Director of Membership & Stewardship Mark Simmons—mark@stlukesatlanta.org.

**Nursery & Children’s Chapel**

Children of all ages are invited to participate in our worship services at St. Luke’s. Nursery care is also available from 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

During this service Children’s Chapel will be held in Wilmer Chapel. Children’s Chapel participants will be brought back into the church during the passing of the peace.

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

The Simon Ebner Family

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**The Altar Greenery** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Winter Mallernee, by Rollin Elliott Mallernee.

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**Permissions**


The Entrance Rite

Voluntary
Veni Emmanuel

Welcome
A bell tolls. The people stand.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The Advent wreath originally emerged as a devotional tool used in the home but eventually migrated into the church. It is a visual symbol that marks the progression of time in Advent. The symbolism is especially powerful in the Northern Hemisphere as the wreath’s growing light contrasts with the increasing darkness of winter.

Celebrant
Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God’s eternal face,
Transparent flame of love’s free duty,
You bring salvation to our human race.

People
Sacred mystery, we light the fourth candle of Advent for love and truth.

Once the candles are lit, the Celebrant continues.

We kindle this flame with love and the hope for the truth that is the light you brought into the world.

People
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved. Amen.
In Procession • Hymn 56

Veni, veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Descant: Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Stanza 1: Soloist; Stanza 2: Upper Voices; Stanza 3: Lower Voices; Stanzas 4-8: All

1 O come, O come, Em-man-uel, and ran-som
2 O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, who or-derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes-se’s tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da-vid, come, and o-pen
6 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind in one the
8 O come, O come, Em-man-uel, and ran-som

1 cap-tive Is-ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile
2 all things might-ly; to us the path of know ledge
3 tribes on Si-nai’s height in an cient times didst give the
4 Sa-tan’s ty-ran-ny that trust thy might-y power to
5 wide our heav-en-ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw-ing nigh; dis-perse the gloomy clouds of
7 hearts of all man-kind; bid thou our sad di-vi-sions
8 cap-tive Is-ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile

1 here un-till the Son of God ap-pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma-jes-ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic-tory o’er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis-er-y.
6 night, and death’s dark shad-ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy-self our King of Peace.
8 here un-till the Son of God ap-pear.

Em-man-uel shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!
The Acclamation

Celebrant  Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People     You come to your people and set them free.

The Celebrant continues
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. —Hebrews 4:14

The Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Celebrant and People
God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Absolution

The Celebrant says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.
The Word of God

All are seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

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.”

Lector   Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People   Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

Chant: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lector   Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

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Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

1 Ye who claim the faith of Jesus, sing the
2 Blessed were the chosen people out of
3 Therefore let all faithful people sing the
4 “Magnificant, my soul, God’s greatness; in my

wonders that were done when the love of God the
whom the Lord did come; blessed was the land of
honour or of her name; let the Church, in her fore-
Savior I rejoice; all the ages call me

Do minus. Magn

Father over sin the victory won, when he
promise fashioned for his earthly home; but more
shathed owed, part in her thanking claim; what Christ’s
blessed, in his praise I lift my voice; he has
Deacon   The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.

Deacon   The Gospel of our Savior.

People   Praise to you, O Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Gabrielle Thomas

Following the sermon, a period of silence is kept.
All stand.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor   God of the watching, God of the waiting: Be present with us.
              Gracious God, we watch with hope as the candles on the Advent wreath are lit.
              Help us to set our minds on things eternal.
              God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People        Be present with us.

Intercessor   We pray for all in authority, especially Joseph, our President, Brian, our
              Governor, and Andre, our mayor. We look forward to the day when your peace is
              experienced by all. God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People        Be present with us.
We pray for the city of Atlanta that we may be a community of hope and justice in this world. God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People Be present with us.

We rejoice in new life all around us, we give thanks for the CYF transformation process and for our friends at San Pablo Parish in Camaguey, Cuba. God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People Be present with us.

We pray for those who are sick, lonely, those experiencing homelessness, those who are hungry, and all who have asked for our prayers: Calvin, Jana, Marquez, Fred, Alan, Mary, Jennifer, and George; grant that they may know the healing power of your love. God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People Be present with us.

We pray for those who have died, including Antoinette Carr, David Shaw Swanson, John Middaugh, Karen Miller, and the ones for whom the altar greenery is given: John Winter Mallernee; grant that we may share with all the saints in your eternal kingdom.

God of the watching, God of the waiting,

People Be present with us.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant says

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify us with the light of his blessing and set us free from all sin. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory, Anthem Russell Schulz-Widmar (b. 1944)

Told of God’s favor, told of God’s purpose, Told of Christ Jesus, told of the Spirit, Mary said, “Tell me, how can this be?” can we say yes as Mary said yes? Told of the Spirit, told of the power, Yes for our bodies, yes for our spirits, told of the promise, Mary said yes. yes for the future, yes for right now? Yes to conceiving, yes to the body Praise to the Spirit, praise to the Most High changing and growing, yes to the flesh. sending the word that Mary was told. Yes to the new life kicking within her, Praise to Christ Jesus, who was made welcome yes to the pleasure, yes to the pain. into our world when Mary said yes.

Yes to the waiting, yes to the labor, —Richard Leach

yes to the hurting, yes to the birth.

Yes to the baby, yes to the future,

yes to the holy, yes to the world.
All stand.

AT THE PRESENTATION • Hymn 438

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Woodlands

Celebrant God 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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs of everlasting life; that when Christ 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:
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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Blessed Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ’s death,
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
We await Christ’s coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 blessed Luke, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer

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

People 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 Fraction Anthem • S-161

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the

sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
The Invitation

Celebrant  The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are seated.

Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available at the communion station by the pulpit.

Prayer ministers are available in the back of the church, if you would like personal prayer.

Music During Communion

Esurientes implevit bonis from Magnificat, BWV 243  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Gretchen Krupp, alto

Esurientes implevit bonis, He has filled the hungry with good things,  
et divites dimisit inanes. and sent the rich away empty.

All stand.

Postcommunion Prayer  
*ANZPB 525

Celebrant  Let us pray.

People  Eternal Majesty,

We praise you for your love in coming to us.  
Give us grace to accept the Christ who comes in your name,  
and the courage to be Christ for others.

We praise and thank you, God of Creation,  
for you have not left us alone.

Each year you come to us, Emmanuel,  
God with us in a manger.

Each time you come to us  
in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
In time or out of time you will be revealed  
and we shall see you face to face.

Give us courage, God our strength,  
to see your Christ in all who suffer,  
to be hands to the helpless,  
food for the hungry,  
and rescue for the oppressed.  Amen.

Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors

When communion is taken to home-bound parishioners, we send forth our Eucharistic Visitors with these words.

Celebrant  On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.

People  We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.

The Blessing
1 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!
2 He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
3 He shall come down like showerers upon the fruitful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;
5 O’er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
2 To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
3 And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
4 All nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;
5 From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:

1 He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
2 To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
3 Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
5 The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
The Dismissal

Deacon  Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People  Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Fugue in G Major, BWV 577 ‘Gigue’

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)