

St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Celebrant
Christmas Pageant

**HOLY EUCHARIST
9:00 A.M. SERVICE
DECEMBER 22, 2024**

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

Processional

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Vs. 1-4)

Hymn 56

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free.

The Celebrant says

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

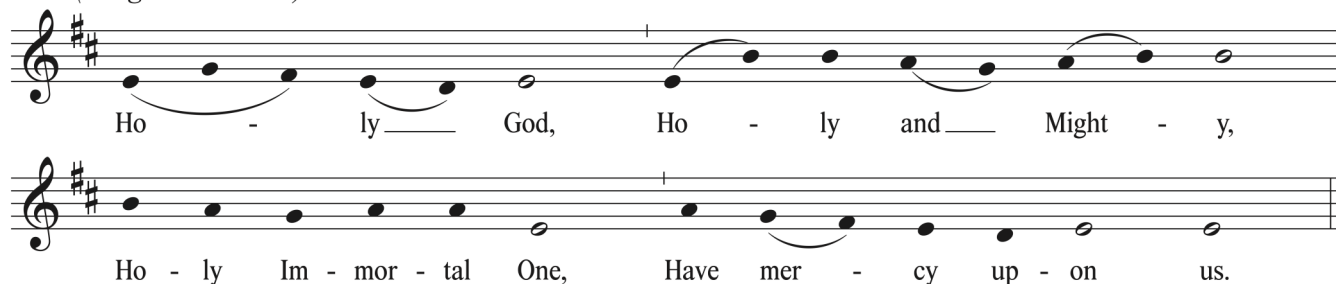
The following is sung.

Trisagion

Holy God

Hymnal S99

(Sung Three Times)



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord 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.*

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

A Reading from Micah.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm

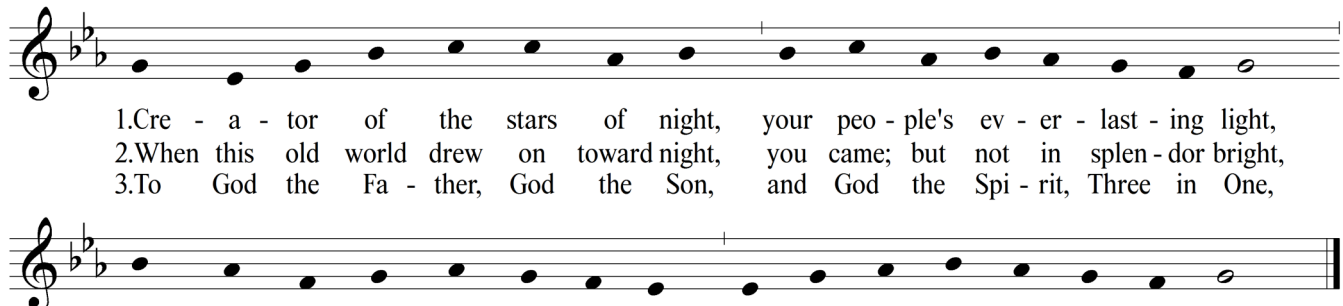
Psalm 80:1-7

- 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.

Gradual

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum



1.Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2.When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
3.To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
not as a mon - arch, but the child of Ma - ry, blame-less mo - ther mild.
praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *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 spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Christmas Pageant

Presented by the Children & Youth of St. Paul's
 Directed by Melanie and Steve Williams

Nicene Creed

All who are able, stand.

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.

Prayers of the People

People's Response: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

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

The Priest stands and says

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

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 People And also with you.

Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Today the Virgin
 St. Paul's Choir

John Tavener

Offertory Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Eucharistic Prayer 2

The people remain standing.

Enriching Our Worship 1

Celebrant The Lord 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.*

The Celebrant proceeds.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

hea - ven and earth are full, _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes _____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

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

Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymnal S164

Je - sus lamb of God: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re -
deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

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 welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail.

If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you.

If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup.

If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is also available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

If you are at home or otherwise unable to take communion, you may say the following prayer.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Communion Music

The Angel Gabriel
Savior of the Nations Come

Hymn 265
Hymn 54

Final Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food as we hear your Word proclaimed and gather at your holy Table. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Advent Blessing

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

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional

Come, O Come Emmanuel (Vs. 5-8)

Hymn 56

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

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MISSION STATEMENT

Worship. Serve. Grow.

Church Phone: 919-467-1477
Web Site: www.stpaulscary.org

The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. J. Carr Holland III, Bridge Priest
The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Bridge Priest
The Rev. Antoinette Wike, Priest Associate
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
Russell McKinney, Minister of Music
Carol Yeargin, Organist

x 12 | javier@stpaulscary.org
x 39 | jcarr.holland@stpaulscary.org
x 13 | stephanie.yancy@stpaulscary.org
 tony.wike@stpaulscary.org
 candy.snively@stpaulscary.org
x 15 | rusty.mckinney@stpaulscary.org
 carol.yeargin@stpaulscary.org

TODAY – DECEMBER 22, 2024

New to St. Paul's? Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Welcome Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat with Greeters and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or The Episcopal Church. Join a tour of our campus on the third Sunday of the month to see more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more about us!

Children's Chapel: On hold today as we present the Christmas Pageant during the 9 a.m. service.

Coffee Hour (Parish Hall): Hosted this week by the Children's Ministries Committee. Join us after the 9 a.m. service for refreshments and chat with the Christmas Pageant cast and crew!

Adult Formation (Chapel, 10:15-11 a.m.): Our Advent series *Preparing the Way* continues this week with "The Prophets in Advent," presented by Diocesan Intern Will Lee.

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under: No classes this morning as we celebrate the Christmas Pageant cast and crew.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): No classes this morning as we celebrate the Christmas Pageant cast and crew.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Not meeting this evening. Please plan to join us when activities resume Jan. 5.

UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services (December 24)

4 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Family Service

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day (December 25)

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas (December 29)

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Offering Envelopes: You are invited to contribute extra funds during the season of Advent in support of our parish during this time of transition, helping to defray the extra costs associated with searching for a new rector. You will find Advent offering envelopes in the pews, along with online giving instructions on the giving card. Please indicate Advent Offering in the memo. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Christmas Pageant: Thank you to all who contributed time and talents to making our Christmas Pageant so special today! We are so grateful for the many hands working to make this happen every year.

Parish Directory of Addresses: We are preparing copies of our directory for parishioner use only, for distribution in early 2025. To improve the accuracy and usefulness of the directory, we request each household review your entry; many landlines we have listed are no longer being used. Printed copies are available for review in the narthex. If you prefer, you can fill out an online form to ensure your entry is correct. If you would like **to opt out** of having your information included, please contact directory@stpaulscary.org and let us know by Dec. 31.

Alternate Gift Giving Supporting Heifer International this Christmas: During this giving season, you are invited to honor family and friends by giving a gift donation to Heifer International, supporting Heifer's mission to end world hunger and poverty. Donations can be placed in the Heifer Ark during the offertory on Sunday mornings, mailed to the church office, or completed online through the St. Paul's Heifer donation webpage. Please make donation checks to St. Paul's with Heifer International written on the memo line. After donating, pick up a Heifer International card (located in the narthex/lobby) to send to those in whose name you have given your gift, or you can send an eCard. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season and thank you for helping St. Paul's reach its annual goal of donating \$5000 to "Give a Gift Ark of Animals." Questions can be directed to Alison Arnold at alisonarnold@gmail.com.

Winter Book Study: Join us for a Zoom study group of the book "Elusive Grace" by Scott Black Johnston, Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. starting Jan. 7. This work is described as providing "hope-filled guidance for more effective, transformative living amid our deeply divided society." If you have questions or would like to register for the group, please contact Gerri Batchelor at gerrikairos@gmail.com.

Pre-EYC (4th-5th Graders) Bowling in January: Be sure to mark your calendars now to join the fun and bowl with us on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 5-6:15 p.m. at Buffaloe Lanes in Cary; friends are welcome to come along. Details are posted in the narthex and on the St. Paul's website; contact Jacob Nelson at jacobnelson77@hotmail.com with any questions.

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Welcome the Newly Baptized: A very special welcome to Kailey Fladung, who will be baptized at the 11:15 a.m. service today.

Prayer List: Dave, Bob, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Laura, Margaret, Mary, Virginia, Doug, Guy, Katie, Cathy, Alan, Jessica, John, Mary, Susan, Clarence, Susan, Mila, Florence, Noah, Sally, Chase, John, Janice, John, Randy, the Lytvinenko Family, Mary, Regina, Nathanael, Lisa, Parrish, Matias, Yosi, Trudy, Lorraine, Ralph, Judy, Jackie, Christy, Mark, Marty, Gary, Lou, Steven, Bonnie, Olive, Randall, Becky, Connor, Carter, and Henry.

In the prayers for the deceased, we pray for Russell Eugene Roe, Jr., uncle of Tom Fransen; Richard (Buck-Buck) Ogren, father of Tim Ogren; Elise Clark, mother of Ann Lockhart.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.



St. Paul's Website