

# St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Ocean City, Maryland



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

# Holy Eucharist—Rite II

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

## Proclamation Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #56 vs. 1-4

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's stem,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

## Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

# The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* You come to your people and set them free.

*The Celebrant may say*

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 hymn sung, all standing*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says 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.*

### **Diocesan Collect,** *said in unison*

Gracious God, through the movement of your Holy Spirit, strengthen us here at St. Paul's by-the-Sea and in the Diocese of Easton as an inviting and welcoming people; receive our worship, nurture our life in Christ that we may evermore faithfully serve all your people, both near and far; this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The First Lesson:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in

their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm** 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

## **The Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal 1982, #66

1 Come, thou long expected Jesus  
born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

## **Gospel**

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **Gradual Hymn**

Hymnal 1982, #66

3 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **The Sermon**     *Pastor Jill Williams*

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

### **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:  
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.

## **The Prayers of the People**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us appeal to the Lord praying, “Restore us, Mother of Creation; *Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*”

We ask you, O God, to bless your Church. Give us your grace. Stir up your strength and come to help us even as we declare the gospel concerning your Son.



*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless this nation. May our leaders not trust in their own strength but in you. Teach us to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless this planet. By your creative power bring forth new life in the places in which we have reaped too much or sown too little.

*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless our city. Let your hand be upon us. Guide and strengthen all those who find themselves in difficult situations—especially young and single parents.

*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless all those who are distressed. Hear their prayers, O Shepherd of the flock. May they take comfort in the knowledge that you are with them.

*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

We ask you, O God, to bless all who have died. Welcome into your heavenly kingdom all who are called to be saints.

*Silence*

Restore us, Mother of Creation;

*Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people stand or 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 Bishop, when present, or 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.*

## The Peace

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## Holy Communion

### Offertory

*The Celebrant says to the people*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant.*

Everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord and is invited to communion! At the altar rail, you will be offered the host first, which will be placed in your hand. Please respond "Amen." Then the wine will be offered to you to drink from the common cup. [We no longer intinct.](#) If you are not yet comfortable returning to drinking from the common cup, you may either return to your seat after receiving the host, or you may choose to cross your arms over your chest when the chalice is offered and simply respond "Amen," therefore reverencing the sacrament. We believe that we are fully communed after receiving the sacrament in one form, so any of these choices would be fully acceptable. If you do not wish to receive communion, or you have not yet been baptized, you are still invited to come up to the altar rail for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when offered the host and Pastor Jill will say a blessing over you. You may then return to your seat. If you interested in learning more about baptism and full entrance into our worshipping community, please contact Pastor Jill at [Pastorjill@stpaulsbythesea.org](mailto:Pastorjill@stpaulsbythesea.org).

*The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

### Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

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 him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he 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:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new

and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*The people say:*  
AMEN.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us say together the Lord's Prayer, in whatever language you are most comfortable.

*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.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately  
deliver it to the people.*

*Using the center aisle, proceed to the Altar rail. Once you have received communion,  
return to your seat using the side aisles.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

## **Communion Hymn**

Hymnal 1982, #258

1. Virgin-born, we bow before thee:  
blessed was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, Mother meek and mild,  
blessed was she in her Child.  
Blessed was the breast that fed thee;  
blessed was the hand that led thee;  
blessed was the parent's eye  
that watched thy slumbering infancy.

2. Blessed she by all creation,  
who brought forth the world's salvation,  
and blessed they, for ever blest,  
who love thee most and serve thee best.  
Virgin-born, we bow before thee;  
blessed was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, Mother meek and mild,  
blessed was she in her Child.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

### **Recessional Hymn:**

Hymnal 1982, #56 vs. 5-8

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of the night  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain



7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. Refrain.

### **Dismissal**

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# Welcome to St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

All baptized Christians, of any age & denomination, are welcome to receive communion. **\*\*Gluten Free Wafer** are available.

## Prayer List

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, Letty Trimper Hurst, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Randy Hastings, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Jean Charles, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Larry Lorton, The Lecates Family, The People of Ukraine, Michael Hallett, Hannah Johnson, Hugh Smith, Ralph Hastings, Frank Avallone, Mary Wright, Alan Farley, Liana Wallman, Susan Lewis, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Christine Zellner, Brian, Nicoyia, Tom Belle, Aaron Call, Christine Bauerdorf, Victims of the Hawaiian Wildfires, Lynn Anstatt, Peggy Hartman, Kathy Jersin, Mary Mitchell, Wendy O'Donoghue, Christina Hartman, Patrick O'Malley, Chris Ellis, David Twining, Corey Bowman, Roger Ballard, Beverly Cooper, Aniyah Adams, Levon Davis, Andy Hales

## This Week We Pray For ...

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We give thanks for the witness of God's people at All Faith Chapel, Tunis Mills, and for their Lay Leadership, and for their Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Pat Kuhns, and her husband, Tom.

Birthdays: JB Bunting III & Shirley Hailey

Anniversaries: Penny Morrow & Ralph Hastings