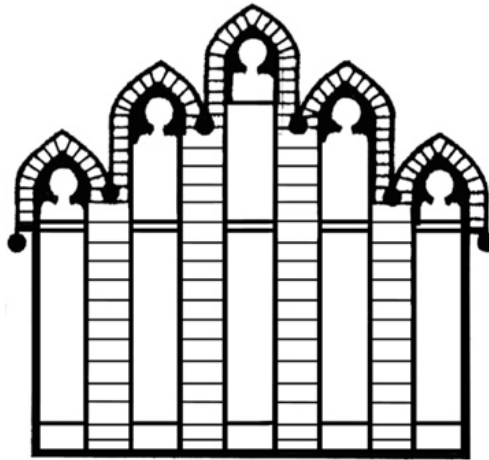


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023
10:00AM



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

73 S. FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ

SLECHURCH.ORG

973-744-6220

"Joyfully seeking and serving Christ"

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

HYMN 56 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong)

O come, O come, Emmanuel



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - 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 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y 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 - til 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 - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 355, Expansive Language*)

Celebrant Bless be God who forgives all our sins.

People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 351*)

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 360*)

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel as you are able. Silence will be kept.

All **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 our Savior 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.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Celebrant “Lord, my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people – a light to bring light to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32)

People **Dear God, let the glorious light of Jesus' love shine in our lives and proclaim the Good Tidings to everyone we meet. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (*The Hymnal 1982, S91* *Composer: Willan*)

4

COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 212)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.

All **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated for the readings.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel (7:1-11,16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?” 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We will say the appointed Psalm antiphonally by half verse.

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26 *(St. Helena Psalter)*

Your love, O God, for ever will I sing; *

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line for ever, *

and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”

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.

I have found David my servant; *

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast *

and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, *

nor any adversary bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him *

and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *

and he shall be victorious through my Name.

I shall make his dominion extend *

from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, ‘You are my God, *

my savior and the rock of my salvation.’

SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Epistle to the Romans (16:25-27)

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 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—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL ANTHEM

Morning star (*Moravian Hymn*)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26-38)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

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

SERMON *The Rev. John A. Mennell*

A period of silence will follow then please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 358)*

Celebrant Let us stand together with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

All **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.
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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Planning for Rites and Rituals Year B)*

Celebrant You astounded Mary with her invitation to bear your Son. Surprise us with your delight in us, with your invitation to do your will, with the light of Christ growing with in us. Surprise us, Lord, again and again.

Leader We are your children. Increase the faith in us, day by day, season by season. Empower us to seek and do your will. Cause us to surprise ourselves by opening up our hearts to find that you are always there.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray that the leaders of all the nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors. S.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray that the peoples of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow throughout the world.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray that the peoples of all the nations realize freedom and an end to hunger and poverty. Enable a spirit of generosity to flow throughout the world.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray for our neighbors with whom we work and live. Surprise us with what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good. Open our eyes to see you in each person we meet. Open our hearts and hands to each need we encounter.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray for healing for those with troubled spirits, who suffer from addiction, loneliness, and despair. We ask for healing for those who struggle with the consequences of illness, especially for *[insert prayer list]*. Reveal to us how to join in your saving and healing work through the power of your Spirit.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We pray for those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. May the light of your love surround them and comfort those who grieve their deaths. Surprise them with the sure hope of the Resurrection.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

Leader We are your people. Increase the faith in us day by day. Surprise us with your loving, liberating, and life-giving presence.

People **Surprise us, Lord.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 360)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

During the offertory, a collection is gathered as we look to give back to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings in our life. As stewards of our gifts of treasure this opportunity to give back allows the church to continue its work in the world serving those in spiritual, emotional, and financial need.



When attending in person, we appreciate your remaining seated during the Offertory to enjoy the anthem. As you enter or leave the church, you may place your donation in the box labeled “Church Donation Box” at the back of the center aisle, or take advantage of the following options for giving electronically: Scan the QR code to the right; Text (“ThanksB2God” to 73256); Zelle (donate@slechurch.org); Venmo (@Saint-Lukes). Detailed information is available on the “Giving” tab of our website, slechurch.org.

*Please join us by sharing your abundance and pledging for 2024.
Our goal is \$525,000 and full participation.*

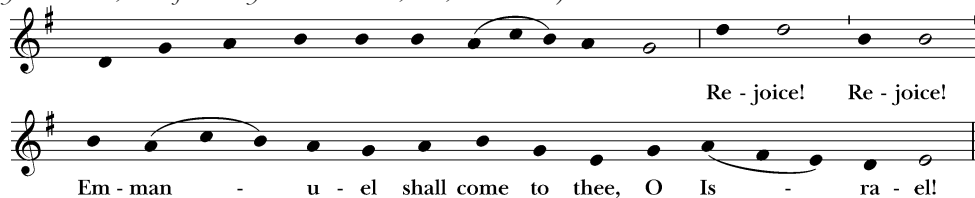
*Make your pledge on the website at slechurch.org or by scanning the QR code.
If you wish to discuss your pledge, reach out to our campaign co-chairs Amy
Lui Abel and Chelle Carter-Wilson at stewardship@slechurch.org.*



Please stand and join in singing as the gifts are brought forward.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

(The Hymnal 1982, 56 refrain only Tune: Veni, veni, Emmanuel)



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Book of Common Prayer, Eucharistic Prayer B, p. 367)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

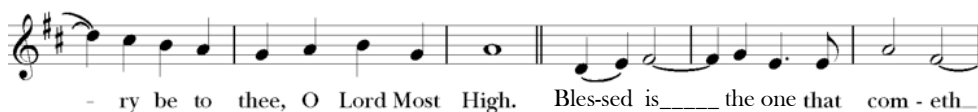
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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 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 (say) this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS *(The Hymnal 1982, S114 Composer: Willan)*



The Celebrant continues, you may stand or kneel.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, our Savior. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, 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 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, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection
We await his coming glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

All **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)*

Feel free to pray in whatever language and words that bring you closer to God.

FRACTION ANTHEM *(The Hymnal 1982, S158 Composer: Willan) Sung together at 10:00am*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

INVITATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

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. *You will be guided when it is your turn to join the Communion line. Communion is offered as bread and wine. Know that reception of communion in either form is complete.*

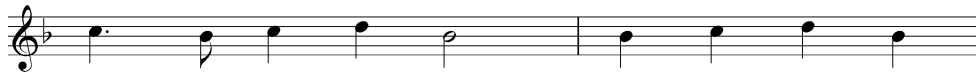
Please stand and join in singing.

HYMN 54

(The Hymnal 1982 Words: Martin Luther after Ambrose of Milan Music: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland)
Savior of the nations, come!



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

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Authorized expansive language is used where practical throughout the liturgy.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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 Christ,**
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

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

Celebrant May the one whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

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

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

After singing the recessional hymn on the following page, please join in the dismissal.

DISMISSAL *(Book of Common Prayer p. 366)*

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand and join in singing.

HYMN 616 (Hymnal 1982 *Tune: Es flog ein klens Waldvögelein*)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth;
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest;

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.