

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025 ❖ 10:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump



We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Laura Fenn in loving memory of all the animals rescued after Hurricane Katrina 20 years ago, and in honor of Best Friends Animal Society and St. Francis Animal Sanctuary.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 1

- 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sunday Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 2

- 4:30 pm Teen Tuesday (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, December 3

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group
- 7:00 pm Lectionary Study (Library)
- 7:30 pm Camerata Catalyst Candlelight Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 4

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, December 5

- 9:00 am Beaders Group

Sunday, December 7

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:15 am Advent Breakfast and Family Activity
- 11:30 am Christmas Eve Concert Rehearsal
- 11:30 am ECW Meeting

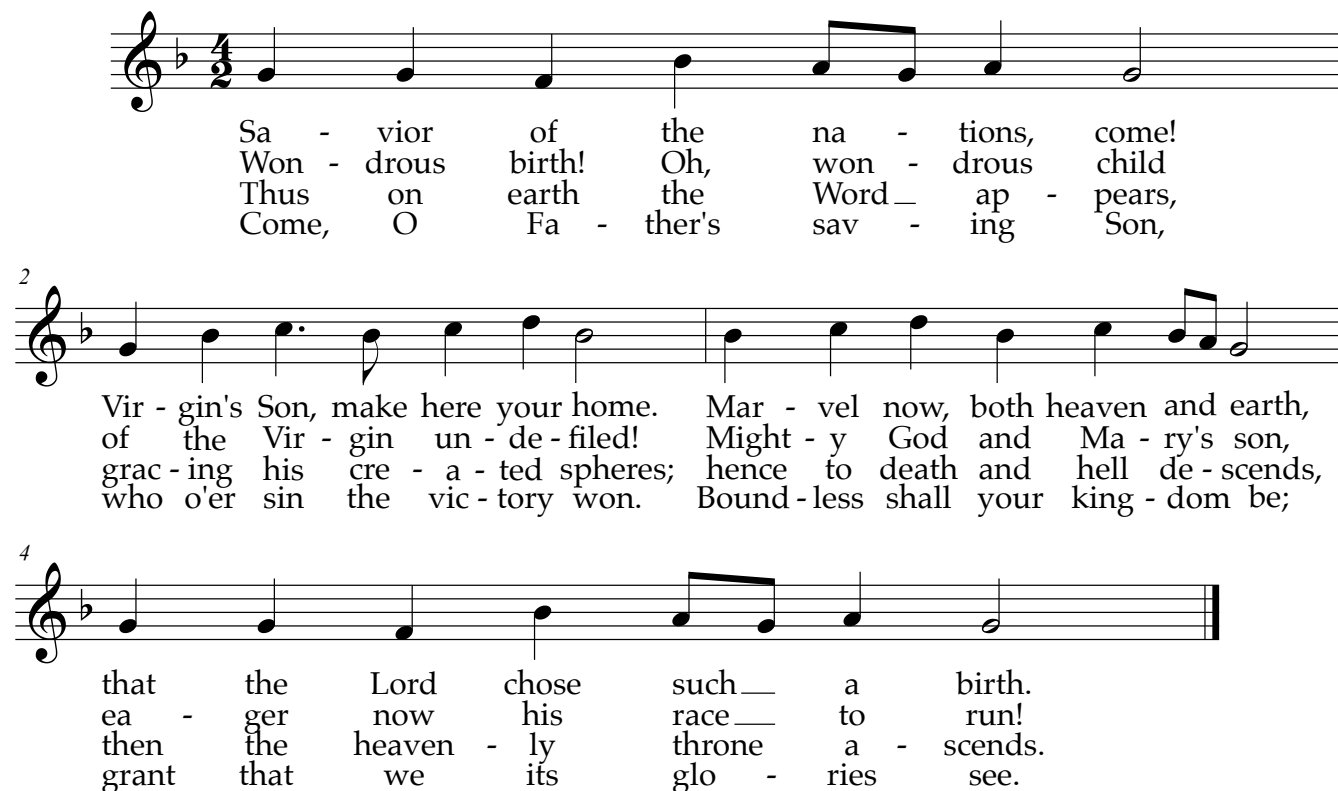
The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come!

Hymnal #54



Sa - vior of the na - tions, come!
 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child
 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears,
 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son,

2
 Vir - gin's Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both heaven and earth,
 of the Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and Ma - ry's son,
 grac - ing his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and hell de - scends,
 who o'er sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your king - dom be;

4
 that the Lord chose such a birth.
 ea - ger now his race to run!
 then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938), sts. 3-4, © 1982 James Waring McCrady.

Music: "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," melody from "Erfurt Enchiridia," 1524;
 harm. Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616).

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **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 Gloria

Gloria in excess Deo

Hymnal #96

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The score is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number '7'.

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.; By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.
Music: "Gloria," French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Branes (1887-1958).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A family steps forward.

Leader Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning.
The first candle is HOPE.

The candles are lit.

Leader "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace." (Colossians 3:15)

People **Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls.
Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.**

The First Lesson: Genesis 16:7-13

Reader A Reading from the book of Genesis.

⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her." ¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude."

¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her,
"Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the LORD has given heed to your affliction.

¹²He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;
and he shall live at odds with all his kin."

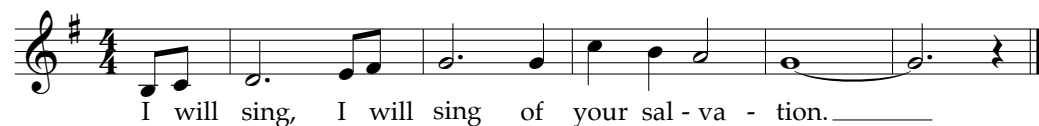
¹³So she named the LORD who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?"

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 71:4-11

Reader Let us read from Psalm 71 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).



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⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,*
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

⁵For you, O LORD, are my hope,*
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

⁶Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.*
My praise is continually of you.

⁷I have been like a portent to many,*
but you are my strong refuge......Refrain

⁸My mouth is filled with your praise,*
and with your glory all day long.

⁹Do not cast me off in the time of old age;*
do not forsake me when my strength is spent.

¹⁰For my enemies speak concerning me,*
and those who watch for my life consult together.

¹¹They say, "Pursue and seize that person
whom God has forsaken,*
for there is no one to deliver."Refrain

The Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Hymnal #256

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came, his
 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be, all
 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born in
 wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; All
 gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, thy
 me be as it pleas - eth God," she said, "my
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, and
 hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, most
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name." Most
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say - "Most
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: "Gabriel's Message," Basque carol,
 harm. Edwrd Pettman (1865-1943), © 1961 B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman and Co.

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Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Deacon **✝ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

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, 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.

Please remain standing as able.

The Prayers of the People (the People read the responses in **bold**)

Deacon Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Deacon Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Deacon We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Deacon We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Deacon Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Deacon For all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leay, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Heredia, Michale Strong, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Gail Winters, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Patt Parker, Phyllis Massey, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susie Zimmerman, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, the victims of violence everywhere, and for those who commit violence, that they may cease their evil ways and know the Love of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Give to the departed eternal rest;

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Deacon We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

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

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 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 Absolution

Celebrant 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.**

Please stand as able.

Please remain standing as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All **Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

The Communion Anthem

Advent Prayer

James E. Clemens



Words and Music by James E Clemens © 1999 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Please join in singing the Congregational Response in bold:

Choir We are waiting on this day; Jesus will take our fears away.
We will keep our vigil here, as his Advent draws us near.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Congregation **Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**

Choir We are longing on this day; Jesus will take our sins away.
As a shepherd, he will lead; gently tend our every need.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Congregation **Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**

Choir We are reaching on this day; Jesus will lead us, light our way.
He will show the way of peace, from our darkness bring release.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Congregation **Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**

Choir We will expect him on that day; we prepare our hearts and pray.
He will bless us with his grace, saving all the human race.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Congregation **Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**

Choir Jesus is coming on this night, sent from God to be our light.
Let us praise our humble King, and with adoration sing.
Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.
Congregation **Come, Lord Jesus, come and dwell, dwell in our hearts, Immanuel.**

St. Francis Choir

The Offertory Hymn
O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light

Hymnal #64



O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light, be - got - ten
pour light up - on us from a - bove, and fire our
To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the

3
of the Fa - ther's might, who in these lat - ter days wast
hearts with ar - dent love, that, as we hear thy truth to -
Spi - rit, ev - er One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry

6
born for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;
day, all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;
be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. "Hymnal 1982". Music: "O Heiland, reiss," melody from
"Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch," 1666; harm. "Orgelbuch Zum Gesangbuch
Der Evangelisch-Reformierten Kirchen Der Deutschsprachigen Schweiz," 1926.

Please stand as able.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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.**

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:

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Forest Green (Tune: #78)

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo-ry, Ho-

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the

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

Music: "Forest Green," English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

Please kneel or stand as able as 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him 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 him, 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 Father,

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

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 St. Francis 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 Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

All **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Fraction Anthem

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Hymnal #73

The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and _
Not, as of old, a _ lit - tle child, to _
The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and _
and let the end - less _ bliss be - gin, by _
The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and _
light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
bear, and _ fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
wear - y _ saints fore - fold, when right shall tri - umph
light and _ beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy
east - ern _ hills and life to _ joy a - wakes.
like the _ sun that lights the _ morn - ing sky.
of that _ morn, the day that _ e'er shall last;
o - ver _ wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
peo - ple _ pray, come quick - ly, _ King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: "St. Stephen," William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts for Holy People.

For our online community: an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Song

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Hymnal #601

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has four measures, the second has four measures, and the third has two measures. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under multiple notes. The final measure of the third system ends with a double bar line.

O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in
 Bring to our trou - bled minds un - cer - tain and a -
 Bring jus - tice to our land that all may dwell se -
 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of
 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's

4

power, come with thy time - less judg - ment now to match our pre - sent
 fraid, the qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o -
 cure, and fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en -
 peace, that war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion
 birth, let there be light a - gain, and set thy judg - ments in the

8

hour.
 beyed.
 dure.
 cease.
 earth.

Words: Rober Balgarnie Young Scott (b. 1899); Copyright © Emmanuel College, Toronto.
 Used by permission. Music: "St. Michael," Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?);
 harm. William Henry Monk (18823-1889)

Please kneel or stand as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Prayer of St. Francis

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✙ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

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

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Recessional Hymn
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Hymnal #68

Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap -
See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - plen - ish them with
Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap -
4
pear! The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is
oil; look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and
pear; a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened
8
near. The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw
toil. The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen
sphere! With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to
12
nigh; up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the
stand; rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at
see the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with
16
cry.
hand!
thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.
Music: "Llangloffan," melody from "Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasaneth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru," 1865.

The Postlude

Variations on "Stuttgart"

arr. David Knight

Advent & Christmas at St. Francis

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Nov. 30

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 pm – Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, Dec. 3

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II
7:30pm – Long Beach Camerata Singers
Catalyst Chamber Candlelight Christmas Concert

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 7

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:15 am – Advent Breakfast and Family
Nativity Set Craft

Wednesday, Dec. 10

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

Friday, Dec. 12

6:00 pm – St. Anne's Christmas Auction

Saturday, Dec. 13

6:00 pm – Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment)

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 14

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday, Dec. 17

10:00 am – Midweek Holy Eucharist Rite II

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 21

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:15 am – Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour

Tuesday, Dec. 23

7:00 pm – Taizé

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Church office closed
4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service
8:00 pm – Christmas Choir Concert
9:00 pm – Christmas Holy Eucharist Rite II

Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 25

Church office closed
9:00 am – Christmas Morning Holy
Eucharist Rite II (Chapel)

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 28

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025
through Friday, Jan. 2, 2026**

Church office closed

For more events and small discussion groups
at St. Francis, visit our church calendar:
<https://bit.ly/stfranciscalendar>



St. Francis Episcopal Church
2200 Via Rosa
Palos Verdes Estates 90274
www.stfrancispalosverdes.org



Long Beach Camerata Singers Catalyst Chamber Candlelight Christmas Concert at St. Francis Wednesday Dec. 3 at 7:30pm

Bask in the peaceful glow of the season at a candlelit evening of music, where cherished carols meet inspiring new choral pieces. In this serene and soulful setting, Catalyst Singers welcome you to a moment of stillness, wonder, and celebration of Christmas's quiet beauty.

Tickets: https://lbcamerata.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200489182

Advent Sunday Breakfast & Nativity Set Craft Sunday, December 7

Come and celebrate the Advent season together with one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Sunday, December 7, following the 10 am service**, join us in the Parish Hall for our annual Advent Sunday Breakfast — a time to gather as a parish family, share a meal, and embrace the joy of the season.

The Friars will be serving up a delicious pancake breakfast, complete with hot cocoa, warm cider, and plenty of cheer. It's the perfect way to slow down, reconnect, and prepare our hearts for the Advent journey ahead.

Something new this year! We'll also be hosting a Nativity Set craft, where everyone is invited to create a one-of-a-kind Nativity scene. All the materials will be provided, so you can design and assemble your set, as a family or on your own, as a meaningful keepsake to bring the spirit of Advent into your home.

Come enjoy good food, great company, and the warmth of community as we begin this holy season together.

Contact: Mary Deley (mary_deley@yahoo.com)

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Meeting Sunday, December 7

The St. Francis ECW will meet on **Saturday, December 7, at 11:30 am in the St. Francis Library** to discuss the distribution of funds raised this year.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the Antiques Show—whether through generous gifts in response to the Angel Letter or through the many hours of hard work that made the show such a success! This annual event is our primary fundraiser, enabling us to give generously to both the parish and local community organizations.

A detailed report of ECW giving will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

More information about next year's Antiques Show will be coming soon!

Contact: Anna Eakins (annatkozaki@gmail.com)

St. Anne's Christmas Auction Friday, December 12

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite St. Francis traditions! On **Friday, December 12 from 6–9 pm, the Parish Hall** transforms into a festive marketplace filled with Christmas cheer, homemade treats, and gifts waiting to find new homes.

Hosted by the St. Anne's Guild, this live auction raises funds for local charities—and it's always a joyful evening of fellowship, fun, and holiday spirit. ✨

Enjoy refreshments, browse beautiful Christmas items, and take home something special for the season. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

Come celebrate generosity, community, and the joy of giving.

Las Posadas (Nativity Reenactment) Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm

Come experience the beauty and tradition of **Las Posadas on Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 pm** at St. Francis! This beloved celebration reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before the birth of Jesus. We'll begin outdoors with singing and the traditional procession, then move inside to enjoy delicious Mexican food and fellowship.

Las Posadas has been celebrated for over 430 years, and we're delighted to share this meaningful tradition with our whole community. All are warmly invited to participate.

For more information, please contact Ed Hinz at 310-418-8138.

Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour Sunday, December 21

Join us after the 10:00 am service for a festive Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall! Everyone is invited to bring a plate of cookies to share — homemade, store-bought, fancy, simple... all are welcome.

Come enjoy sweet treats, warm fellowship, and a joyful moment together as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent. Bring cookies, bring friends, bring Christmas cheer — we can't wait to see you there!

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Heredia, Michael Strong, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Andrea, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Brad, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump, Ceri Falk, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Daniel Drayling, Elizabeth Beadle, Erica, Gail Winters, Judy Morgan, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, Loren, Miguel Diaz, Natalie Massey, Patt Parker, Phyllis Massey, Richard Cantine, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Susie Zimmerman, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, victims of violence everywhere, and for all those who have been impacted by the wildfires, especially the people of St. Matthew's and St. Mark's.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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