

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 am • December 21, 2025

ABBREVIATIONS: **BCP** Book of Common Prayer | **CG** A Child's Guide to the Holy Eucharist | **LEVAS II** Lift Every Voice and Sing II | **WLP** Wonder, Love and Praise

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light this candle to share God's great love with the world.

Silence is kept.

Today, Isaiah promises a child named Immanuel: God with us. Matthew tells the story of Joseph, who listens to God's voice and receives the promise of this child. And Paul proclaims that through Christ we are called to belong to God.

Silence is kept.

Love can mean affection or warm feeling, but it is also a steadfast choice like Joseph's kind of love: courageous, faithful, and shaped by God's mercy for every generation.

Silence is kept.

What brings you love?

Silence is kept.

QUIET MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATION

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

EOW

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 SONG OF PRAISE:

Celebrant Kyrie eleison.

People **Christe eleison.**

Celebrant Kyrie eleison.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE 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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm will be read antiphonally by whole verse by side of the church, beginning with the Narthex side.

- 4 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1: 18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Grey Maggiano

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358 | CG 9

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

The congregation will read the bold text together.

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially Sean our presiding bishop, Sam and Jennifer our Bishops, George, Grey, and Ryan our clergy, our vestry and leaders. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation.

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will.

Come and redeem us for our life together.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.

Come save us and do not delay.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

Come and bring the captives out of the prison house.

O King of the Nations and their Desire, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially Alice, Betty, Bill, Chuck, Diane, Eva, Gregory, Jan, Jane, Liz, Lorrie, Margaret, Maxine, Nancy, Nancy, Remmy, and Scarlett. And for our friends and family including Austin, Andrea, Bill, Bob, Caitlyn, Caline, Cally, Charlie, Danielle, Denise, Doug, Evonne, Fitzroy, Gemma, Geralyn, Ginger, Allen, Caden, Crew, Hannah, Harper, Heather, James, Joe, Joelle, John, June, Kate, Keili, Kevin, Laura-Benton, Linda, Lois, Lori, Marci, Moira, Nadia, Rae, Renee, Robert, Rosalie, Roy, Roy, Sam, Sandy, Sandy, Sara, Sarah, Shannon, Shannon, Stephanie, Thom, and William. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.

O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; remember especially those we now name. Gloria Jean Verge, Alex Allen, Michael Welton, and Sam Whisenhunt; and bring comfort to all those who mourn.

Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, God with us, Expected One and Savior, We give thanks for all the blessings of this life; for those recently born, including Grace Marie Maloney, daughter of Kristen and Bailey, and granddaughter of Lucy and Kit Maloney; and for all those who preparing for marriage including George and Lindsey and for the other blessings we now name silently or aloud. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

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

THE PEACE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

EOW

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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 (say):

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant 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.**

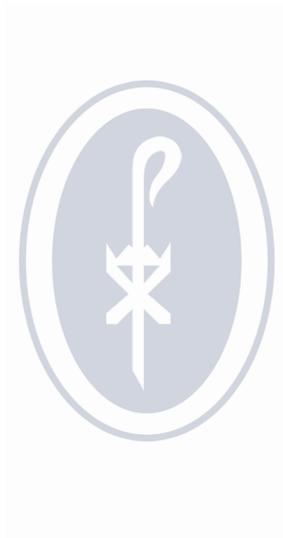
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

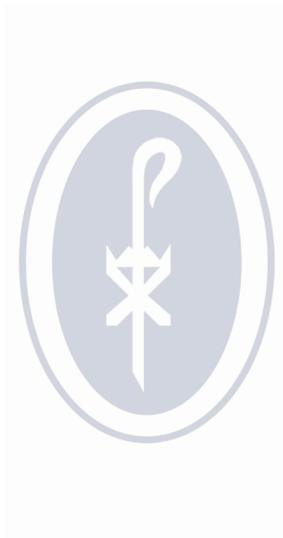
Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body,
because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, and the People respond:
Thanks be to God.







CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY VESTRY 2025

Wardens Sarah O'Connor (Senior) and Dave McKinnon (Junior)

Members David Dykes, Hannah Harris, Emily Jividen, Robert Joines, Susan Kelley, Yvette Smith, Lillis Ward, Sam Wesonga

Officers Matt Dutton (Treasurer), Bill Sena (Assistant Treasurer) and Hannah Harris (Registrar)





QUICK LINKS

Scan this QR code to fill out
a welcome card, give online,
and more.

We thank the following people for their service today:

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Grey Maggiano
PREACHER	The Rev. Grey Maggiano
MUSICIANS (10:30)	Christian Schoen and the Pageant Members
ADVENT CANDLES (8:30)	Steve Dearth and Sherry Hedrick
(10:30)	The Sanders Family
LECTORS (8:30)	Rene Garces, Viola Baldwin
(10:30)	Robin Rhaney, Lloyd Childers, Arrin Dutton
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (8:30)	Kate Mohan
(10:30)	Anne Sena, Harlan Hagge
BANNER (10:30)	Beatrice Tarry
CRUCIFER (10:30)	Alicia Lester--Bodford
TORCHES (10:30)	Hannah Parker, Vance Dutton
LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN (10:30)	Alfred Christensen
ALTAR GUILD	Robin Rhaney, Julia Cavalier, Mary Hillmer
ALTAR FLOWERS	Emily Phillips
VESTRY REPRESENTATIVE	Emily Jividen

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. George Black	Curate
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Christian Schoen	Organist and Choirmaster
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Kate Mohan	Diaconate Discernment Intern
Monique Holmes	Business Manager
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton