



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite One

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

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*Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are glad you are here. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to any visitors. This service of Holy Eucharist follows the order found in the Book of Common Prayer (the red book in the pew rack) beginning on page 323. This bulletin provides page numbers and other information to guide you through the service.*

*Visitor guides are available in racks at the entrance doors. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew or online); you may drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!*

## The Word of God

Opening Acclamation	<i>Please stand as you are able.</i>	The Book of Common Prayer, page 323
The Collect for Purity		page 323
The Summary of the Law		page 324
Kyrie, Trisagion or Gloria		page 324
The Collect of the Day	<i>Found on page 3.</i>	
The First Lesson	<i>Found on page 3; please sit.</i>	
The Psalm	<i>Found on page 3; please remain seated and read responsively.</i>	
The Gospel	<i>Found on page 3-4; please stand.</i>	
The Sermon	<i>Please sit.</i>	
The Nicene Creed	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 326
The Prayers of the People	<i>Please kneel as you are able.</i>	pages 328-330
Confession and Absolution		pages 331-332
The Peace	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 332
Welcome and Announcements	<i>Please sit.</i>	

# The Holy Communion

## At the Presentation of Alms

*All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online or in an offering plate. To make your offering electronically, scan this code with your smart phone and follow the prompts, or text STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256.*



*All things come of thee, O Lord.  
And of thine own have we given thee.*

**The Great Thanksgiving**    *Please stand.*

pages 340-343

*Please kneel after the Sanctus.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

page 336

**The Breaking of the Bread**

page 337

**The Prayer of Humble Access**

page 337

## The Distribution of Holy Communion

*All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the Communion rail in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and you may stand or kneel to receive. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use the smaller cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest. If you need us to bring the sacrament to you, please let the usher know.*

**The Post-Communion Prayer**

page 339

**The Blessing and Dismissal**

page 339-340

## The Collect and Readings

### The Collect of the Day

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 160

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son Jesus Christ cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** Micah 5:2-5a *Please sit.*

**Reader** A reading from the Book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

**Canticle 15:** The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

Prayer Book, page 91

*Said in unison, seated.*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***  
**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**  
**He has mercy on those who fear him \***  
**in every generation.**  
**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**  
**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**  
**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**  
**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**  
**The promise he made to our fathers, \***  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**The Gospel** Luke 1:39-55 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

**Celebrant** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Flowers and Vigil Candle

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the leadership of Catherine Whitham and Kyle Huske, former co-chairs of St. Stephen's Flower Guild, by Carol McCoy. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of John Dartez.

## Participants

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rev. William S. Stanley; READER AND CHALICE BEARER: Mary Ball

## The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central (the large table outside the church office) and in the narthex, the vestibule at the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church.