

Welcome to St. John's Church



Sandro Botticelli, c. 1445-1510, early Renaissance

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 24, 2023

no 8:00 a.m. Service today

10:00 a.m. only

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. Box 1278

78 Green Hill Road

Washington, CT 06793

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Liturgy for the Proclamation of the Word of God
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

*No matter where you are from, or where you are going.
No matter what you believe, or what you don't believe.
No matter what you feel, or don't feel.
No matter whom you love.
You are welcome here!*

Choral Prelude

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 54

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.

Celebrant Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

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 Trisagion S # 102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

The Kyrie *Contrafact Communion Service* Joahnnes Brahms (1833-1897)

O Lord, have mercy upon us
O Christ, have mercy upon us
O Lord, have mercy upon us

The Collect of the Day

God 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 Readings

INTRODUCTION: In our Hebrew Scripture reading, the enemies of King David have been subdued and David turns his thoughts to building a temple to the Lord.

A Reading from the Second Scroll of Samuel (7:1-11, 16)

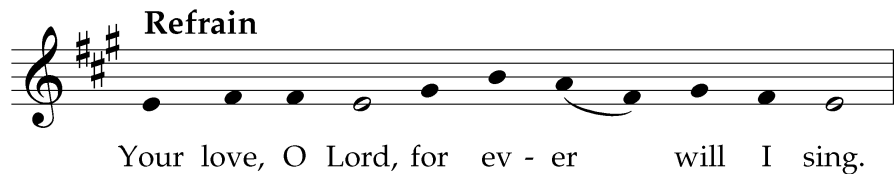
When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*



- 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.'"

INTRODUCTION: Paul reminds the new Christians of the mystery now disclosed to all nations, bringing them to faith and obedience.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

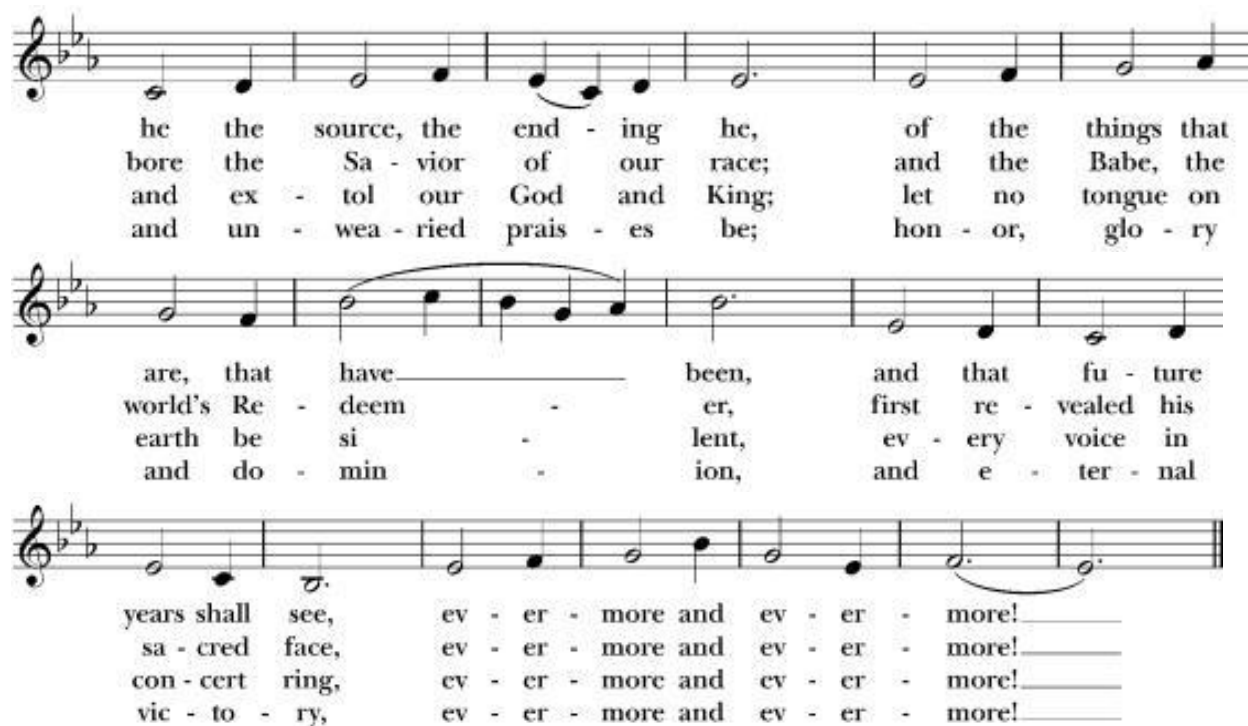
People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 82

Of The Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - cciv - ing,
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

INTRODUCTION: Our gospel reading relates the story of the visit of Mary by an angel: Gabriel tells her that she is to be Jesus, who will be called the Son of God.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. 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.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, priest-in-charge

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

Purify our conscience, O Lord, so that we may offer our prayers and petitions with a wholesome heart, responding, “O Come, Lord Jesus.”

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ O Emmanuel, visit those who do not know of your coming, and who have not been told of your presence, open their minds to your merciful love and be born in their hearts; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Key of David, unlock our complacency, that we may tend to the fearful and lowly, lift up the poor and downtrodden, fill the hungry with good things, and serve your beloved with mercy and love; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Root of Jesse, be with scientists and medical teams as they discover life enhancing treatments, and grant them the wisdom to use their findings for the good of all people; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Desire of Nations, bring peace to our families, churches, schools, and nations, that the whole world may know of your eternal harmony; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Wisdom, give your gift of insight to all who are responsible for the governance of our Church, corporations, national governments, social agencies, schools, armed forces, and medical facilities, that through their faith and dedication, all the peoples of the world may prosper; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

+ O Dayspring from on High, to the sick bring healing, to the dying relief, and to the dead your everlasting arms of mercy; for this we pray.

O Come, Lord Jesus.

With the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and Joseph, blessed Elizabeth and Zechariah, blessed John the Baptist, and all the saints, let us continue our prayers.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his

forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the confession

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 Priest, stands and says

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Offertory

Nun Wandre, Maria

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Keep going now, Mary, keep going my dear. I hear roosters crowing; the township is near. Keep going my dear one, my precious gem: we'll soon be arriving in Bethlehem. And there you will lie down and sleep free from fear. I hear roosters crowing; the township is near. I know it, Mary, your strength is failing. You find your pains are oh too compelling. Keep on! We're sure to find shelter here. Roosters are crowing; the township is near. Mary, I wish you were safely delivered. To hear that good news what would I not give? I'd even give our donkey here. The roosters are crowing; the place is near. -Text by Paul Heyse (1830 - 1914).

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God.
People ***It is right to give our 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:

Sanctus *Contrafact Communion Service* Joahnnes Brahms (1833-1897)

*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 congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer

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."

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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. **AMEN**

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

***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.***

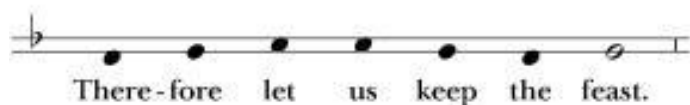
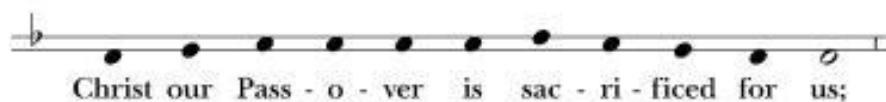
***And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread S # 153

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said



Agnus Dei *Contrafact Communion Service* Joahannes Brahms (1833-1897)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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.

All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

INSTRUCTIONS: *Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest so to indicate.*

Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask at the altar rail if you wish one.

Communion Hymn # 315 *Thou, Who At Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray*

Unison or harmony

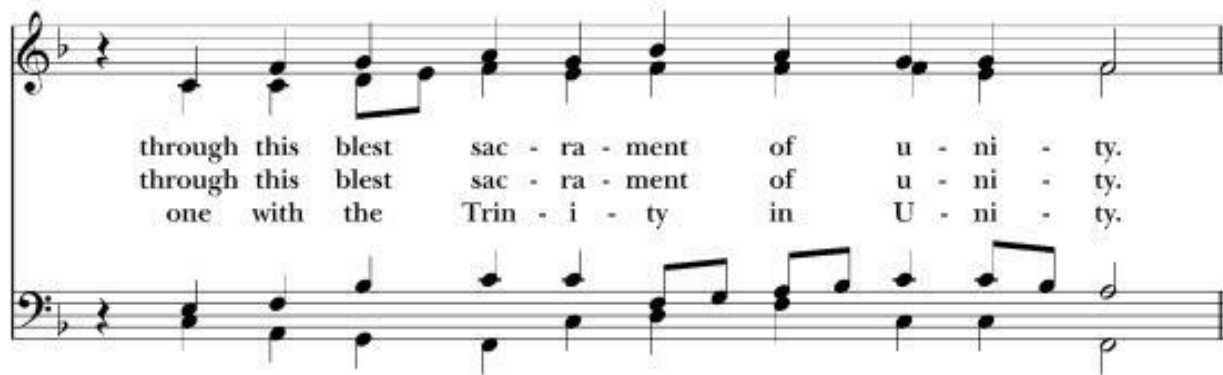
1 Thou, who at thy first Eu - cha - rist didst pray
2 For all thy Church, O Lord, we in - ter - cede;
3 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease,

that all thy Church might be for ev - er one,
 make thou our sad di - vi - sions soon to cease;
 may we be one with all thy Church a - bove,

grant us at ev - ery Eu - cha - rist to say
 draw us the near - er each to each, we plead,
 one with thy saints in one un - bro - ken peace,

with long - ing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
 by draw - ing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
 one with thy saints in one un - bound - ed love;

O may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
 thus may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
 more bless - ed still, in peace and love to be



for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is a Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we are not now receiving you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

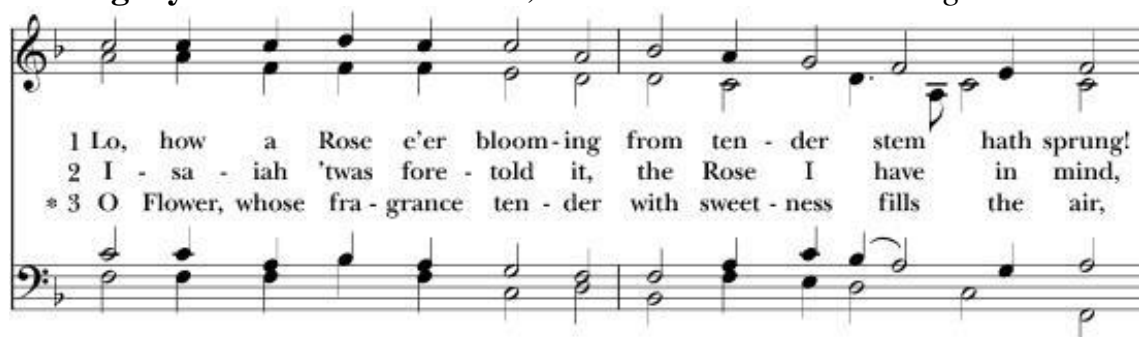
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Abiding Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 81

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming





Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Rebecca Bent: *10:00 Reader*

Laura Daly: *Chalicer*

Laura Daly: *VeeJay*

MB Witt, Sara Coles: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*



CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. JOHN'S

5:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Staff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Priest-in-Charge*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*

Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

Mary Davis, Jay Bauer: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Laura Daly: *Clerk*

Class of 2023

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt

Laura Daly: **Alternate**