



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Christine Pickup*
Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*
Usher: *Bob Jenkins*
Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*
Celebrant: *Rev. Paul Harris*
Organist: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants December 24

Lector: *Jeanette Woehr*
Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*
Usher: *Bob Jenkins*
Altar Guild: *Jeanette Woehr*
Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*
Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to Advent at Gloria Dei!

*The word Advent means **arrival**, and this is the season in which we prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. In Advent, we remember how God's people spent centuries waiting and longing for the arrival of God's promised Messiah, the king who would come to heal this broken world.*

We believe that God's promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. But, in Advent, we remember that Jesus' work of healing is not yet done. Therefore, we also wait and long for Jesus to come again in glory, and we hope for the day when he will wipe away every tear from every eye.

Purple is the color of Advent, representing both Jesus' royal identity (we confess him to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords), and our posture of repentance and longing throughout this season.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader Our King and Savior now draws near!

All Come, let us adore him.

Leader Advent is a time of anticipation, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus and celebrate his gifts to us. Each candle represents one of these gifts. The first candle represents hope, the second peace, and the third joy. Today we light the fourth candle, which represents love.

Leader *(The candle is lit)* Lord, grant us your light, that it might shine in the darkness of our hearts, and we may come to the true light of Christ.

Leader Our King and Savior now draws near!

All Come, let us adore him.



Opening Hymn # 497

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

Hymnal 1982

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

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

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

(Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Christine Pickup

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

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

(Continued...)

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
 And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading **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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
 All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 54

Savior of the Nations, Come

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (1:18-25)**
 All **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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
 All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

After the sermon, we will stand together to recite the Nicene Creed, a historic summary of the Christian faith. In reciting it together, we align ourselves with the generations of believers who have gone before us, while also recognizing that there may be parts of the creed that are strange or uncomfortable for some among us. Ultimately, the creed is a tool that invites us into deeper study, conversation, and reflection on the journey of faith.

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.**

Prayers of the People *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Carol Jenkins

Celebrant	Beginning with a few moments of silence, let us lift up our prayers, using the words of Mary's song (<i>the Magnificat, found in the Gospel of Luke, 1:46-55</i>). <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
People	My spirit rejoices in God our Savior. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Trusting that God looks with favor on humble servants, we pray for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel; our priest, Chris; our postulant, Rachel; for our congregation, and for the church universal.
People	May we be a blessing to all generations, this day and every day. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Remembering that the Almighty has done great things for us, we declare God's name to be holy and good.
People	May God show mercy to all who are afraid today, especially immigrants and refugees. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Relying on the strength of God, we pray that our leaders may truly work for unity and justice and peace.
People	May God scatter the proud in their conceit, and cast down the mighty from their thrones. <i>(Silence)</i>

Prayers of the People *(continued...)*

- Intercessor Longing to see God lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things, we pray for all in need in our community, and in the world around us.
- People **Today, we pray especially for: Alan, William, Betty, Gia, Erica, Patty, Dana, Angel, Christine, Dakota, Emily, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** *(Long pause for people add their own petitions.)*
- Intercessor Hoping in God's promise of mercy to our ancestors, we pray for all who have died, remembering especially **Dolores Kromchad.** *(Long pause for other names...)*
- Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

- Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(Please kneel as you are able; a brief silence may be kept.)*
- All **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.**
- 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

- Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
- People **And also with you.** *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn #56

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

- Celebrant Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
-Psalm 80:18

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.

Flowingly, in 1 Unknown

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion –Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship

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 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:

Flowingly Paul Fejko

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Po - wer and might, Heav'n and Earth are

6 full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes,

11 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est, ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

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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.

Celebrant 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.

People *(In a loud voice.) AMEN!*

Celebrant And now, as our 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, For ever and ever. Amen.
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Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

*All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation. Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. **Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Instrumental Hymn #82

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymnal 1982



Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.
All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing Rev. Paul Harris

Announcements *Please pick up a sheet of announcements and upcoming events from the table in the back of the church. Some of the upcoming events will be highlighted here.*

Closing Hymn #74 ***Blessed Be the King Whose Coming*** Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ***Jacob Que tu es Habile Jean*** Francois Dandrieu

***All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.***

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

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Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

