

ST. MATTHIAS ANGLICAN CHURCH
4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DEC 21, 2025
10:30AM

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymns are found in the blue hymnal in your pew rack titled "The Book of Common Praise 2017"

HYMN #7
"O come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(SITTING)

Advent 4 – The Candle of Joy

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Love are lit)

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her, she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us, we have joy; and that through him, there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(The fourth candle is lit, the Candle of Joy)

Joy is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look upon the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in Christ.

Leader: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Savior:

People: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

(O Emmanuel)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke

NOW in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of

the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

Leader: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son: and his Name shall be called Emmanuel:

People: Hail Mary, full of grace: The Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

¶ *After the Lighting of the Advent Candle, the minister will continue with the Order for Holy Communion.*

THE ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray. (*all kneel*)

¶ *Minister:*

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Turning to the people, the minister continues:*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith,

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

¶ Congregation *SINGS Kyrie*:

752 *Kyrie eleison, threefold*

unison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Minister: Let us pray.

The Collect for the 4th Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Collect for Advent

A LMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON

(SITTING)

Lector: The Epistle lesson is written in the 4th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians beginning at the 4th verse.

R EJOICE in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Lector: Here endeth the Epistle lesson.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

(STANDING)

HYMN #19 (*verses 1, 2, 3 before the Gospel*)

“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding”

Minister: The Holy Gospel is written in the 11th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew beginning at the 2nd verse.

Congregation SINGS: 

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation SINGS: 

HYMN #19 – (*Only verse 4 & 5 after the Gospel*)

THE NICENE CREED

(STANDING)

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand

of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(SITTING)

SERMON HYMN

(STANDING)

HYMN #17

“On Jordan’s bank”

THE SERMON

(SITTING)

OFFERING & PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

(SITTING)

¶ Offerings should be placed in the alms basin located on the table in the Narthex or electronically through Givelify. You may also visit our website www.stmkaty.org and look for the donate button. You can also scan this QR code to go directly to the donate page.



¶ When the table has been prepared and all things are ready, the people will stand and sing the doxology.

THE DOXOLOGY

(STANDING)

Praise God, from who all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Our fathers’ God, to thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing; Long may our land be bright With freedom’s holy light; Protect us by thy might, Great God, our King. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church. (All kneel)

A LMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [**alms and*] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [*a silent moment is observed during which you may offer up names*]. ✠ And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

¶ *The Presbyter shall turn to the people and say,*

YE who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Then shall the Priest, or the Bishop if he be present, turn to the people, say,*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *The shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matthew 11:28*
So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John 3:16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

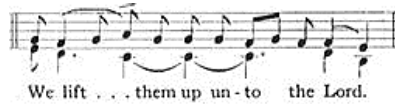
If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John 2:1, 2*

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: (sung) **We lift them up unto the Lord**

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: (sung) **It is meet and right so to do.**

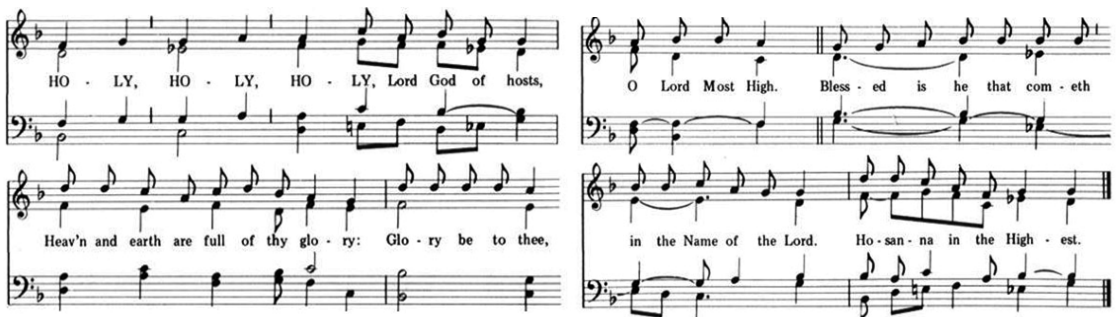


Priest:

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

¶ *Congregation sings the Sanctus & Benedictus*



¶ *The Priest then prays,*

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.✠ Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.✠

WHEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thine almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood ✠.

AND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

Priest: And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

O UR 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.

Priest (kneeling):

W E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

¶ Congregation sings the Agnus Dei

In unison

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Distribution of Communion

(all baptized Christians are welcome to receive)

COMMUNION HYMN

¶ After the distribution is completed, the congregation will sing the Communion hymn

HYMN #20

“Comfort, comfort ye my people”

Priest: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thine everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.
Amen.

¶ *During the seasons of Advent and Lent, it is the tradition of the Church to omit the Gloria in Excelsis from the liturgy. This song of the heavenly host will return again during our celebration of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve*

PRAYER FOR CHURCH FAMILY

Minister: Let us pray. *(The people kneeling)*

ALMIGHTY Father, who binds us together in the one body of Christ, we thank you for the family that you have brought together at St. Matthias. We are blessed by the gifts, talents, support, and fellowship that we have with one another. Our faith is strengthened through the lives we share. We offer up our thanks and our praise, in particular, for *the Lyles Family (Henry & Erika, Taylor, Madison, Aiden)*. Continue to bless *them* and make thy face to shine upon *them*; through Him who prayed that we be one, Thy Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

¶ *The priest, or the Bishop if he be present, shall pronounce the blessing.*

THE peace of God, which passeth 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 God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(STANDING)

HYMN Insert *(next page)*
“Rejoice, rejoice, believers!”

THE DISMISSAL

Minister: Beloved, Go forth into the world in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

4

Advent

76. 76. D.

GREENLAND

Joyously

JOHANN MICHAEL HAYDN, 1819

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he will draw nigh;
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;

Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.
Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear. A - men.

3 O wise and holy virgins,
Now raise your voices higher,
Until in songs of triumph
Ye meet the angel choir.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Rise up, ye heirs of glory!
The Bridegroom is at hand.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with thee! Amen.

LAURENTIUS LAURENTI, 1700; Tr. SARAH B. FINDLATER, 1854, *alt.*

Welcome to St. Matthias Anglican Church.

*A parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church
Anglican Church in North America*

We are so glad that you have joined us for worship this morning, and we pray that that you find St. Matthias to be a parish in which you can embrace **tradition**, experience a **family** and enjoy a **home**. It truly is a pleasure to have you with us, and we hope that you will sign our guest register and join us for some refreshment and conversation next door in Johnson Hall.

Thank you to our **HELPING HANDS**

<u>SERVING SCHEDULE</u>	Dec 21st 4th Sun in Advent Holy Communion	Dec 24th Christmas Eve Holy Communion	Dec 28th Holy Innocents Holy Communion
<i>Celebrant:</i> <i>Preacher:</i> <i>Deacon/Chalice:</i>	Bp. Jason Bp. Jason None	Bp. Jason Bp. Jason None	Bp. Jason Fr. Victor None
<i>Server(s)</i>	Aiden Lyles	V: Harry Johnson Th – Aidan Wray C – Favor Odinye S – Aiden Lyles T – Aidan Grote T – Charlie Mueller	Favor Odinye
<i>Epistoler</i>	Ian Brzeski	Aidan Grote	Jacob Grote
<i>Usher</i>	Harry Johnson	Henry Lyles	Aidan Grote
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ellen Adams Color: Purple	Liz Grote Color: Coronation	Chinenye & Alice E. Color: Red Altar: Coronation
<i>Kids Chapel</i>	Aleesha Ezeudu	Chinenye Odinye	N/A
<i>Streaming</i>	Aidan Grote	Jacob Grote	Agozie Ezeudu
<i>Special Prayers</i>	Lyles Family	Blessing of gifts for Adira Clinic	Frank Massie

Parish: 281-463-2304
Bp. Jason: 832-264-3483
Fr. Victor: 832-475-8938
Dss. Annette: 713-502-9748
Donna Taylor (Choir): 832-265-6026

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