

Advent

December 14, 2025



St. Luke's Eastport

1101 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
www.stlukeseastport.org

Welcome to St. Luke's Eastport

We are glad to have you worshiping with us today. If you need any assistance, please see one of the greeters. If you are a guest, please fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to the priest or a greeter after the service.

Large print booklets are available upon request.

Congregational Health. We are taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other illnesses as we gather for indoor worship. Masks are not required, but those attending in person are very welcome to wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so. Weather permitting, some windows may be opened to provide greater ventilation. We do not require social distancing. However, please refrain from making physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace, unless you are sure that it is welcome.

Hybrid Worship. Whether worshiping in person, on Zoom, by phone, or through Facebook Live, we gather as one community. Our worship services are publicly available as a live video stream at www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport.

Holy Communion. The Episcopal Church, like all churches rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Holy Baptism is the traditional entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist. We at St. Luke's also believe that anyone who desires to receive the body and blood of Christ is always welcome at God's table. If you have not been baptized, we invite you to explore with us what baptism could mean for your life. To learn more, please speak with the Rector after the service.

We use an option for Holy Communion known as "shallow intinction." The celebrant alone dips each wafer into the wine before placing it in the hands of the recipient. Intinction by individual worshipers is not permitted due to associated health risks. Communion under one kind, i.e., the bread or the wine alone, is the full reception of Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive only the wafer, please extend a single hand when you come forward. Our wafers are gluten free. If you would prefer to have communion brought to you in your pew, please notify a greeter.

Children. All ages worship together at St. Luke's. The Children's Corner is reserved for our youngest worshipers and their caregivers. Childcare is available downstairs during the service.

Restrooms. Two non-gendered restrooms are located downstairs. Please see a greeter if assistance is needed.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“People, Look East”

WLP-724 vs.3

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Please remain seated to sing the wreath-lighting antiphon, during which members of the congregation light the Advent wreath. The four candles represent the four Sundays in Advent. See insert for music.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Hymn

“Thy kingdom come”

H-615

See insert for selections. Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.
People **Amen.**

The Gloria

S-278

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the collect.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we
are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and

deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Please be seated.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!"
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Response after the Reading:

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

Psalm The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Please remain seated. The Psalm may be sung to this setting:



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Response after the Reading:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able as the Gospel is processed into the center of the worship space.



The Gospel

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Response after the reading:

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

The Gospel Acclamation is sung again as the procession returns.

Sermon

After the sermon, silence may be kept.

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 326

Please stand as you are able.

Cantor We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**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 worshipped 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

Form III, BCP pg. 387

Cantor Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader We pray also for the special needs and concerns of this church community. We thank you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have bestowed on us. For the lives we have touched and for the opportunity to serve you in ways both large and small. We pray to you for guidance and strength as we look to the future. Help us to trust in you to lead us to new places we cannot yet see. Instill us with vision to discern the path you have laid for us, and grant us strength and courage to walk it with you. Have mercy on us, O God of lovingkindness. Forgive our weakness and fears, and let us remember that all things are possible through your Holy Spirit. Help our members and our leaders to shine with your light. Help us to think boldly and to never underestimate all we can do with your grace. Help us to be an inspiration to others: a city on a hill, singing and dancing with all our might like David before your ark. In your holy name we pray, O Lord of light and truth, of overflowing abundance and boundless wisdom.

For the Anglican Communion, especially _____.

For the Diocese of Maryland, especially _____.

For those on our parish prayer list, especially _____.

And for those we name at this time, aloud or in our hearts. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

The people may add their own petitions.

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest [especially _____].
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

The Celebrant offers additional prayers and a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin

BCP pg. 359

Cantor Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept, during which some may wish to kneel.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Parish Notices

Please be seated.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. *Galatians 6:10*

Offertory Anthem or Hymn

See insert. Please remain seated.

As part of our worship, offerings are received to support the work of the church locally, nationally, and globally. Offerings may be placed in the plate, given online, or mailed to the church office. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right or visit www.stlukeseastport.org and click on "Giving". Blue online giving cards are also available in your pew and may be placed in the plate as a tangible sign of your online gift.



Doxology

Please stand as you are able.

H-380 v.3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 369

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 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

S-129

People

**+ 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.**

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of the children of Abraham to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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." +

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant
and People*

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable

through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Luke, the blessed Mother and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

S-172

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. +

Everyone is welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. To receive the bread, extend your hands palms up. Any individuals who prefer not to receive the bread may instead request a blessing by crossing their arms across their chest. Children of any age are invited to receive the host at the discretion of their parents.

Communion Hymn or Music “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding”
See insert for selections. Please remain seated.

H-59

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP pg. 365

The people may stand, sit, or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **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.**

Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Closing Hymn

“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord”

H-438

See insert for selections. Please stand as you are able.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

*Please return this worship booklet to the basket in the foyer,
unless you wish to take it with you for personal use.
You are encouraged to take any inserts with you.*

The texts in this service are from *The Book of Common Prayer 1979* (BCP) and *Enriching our Worship* (EOW). Hymns and service music are from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* and *Wonder Love & Praise* unless otherwise noted. The Gospel Acclamation melody, “Noel Nouvelet,” is a 15th century French noel. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-722440. Cover art, “Star of Light,” is an original work by Reverend Lauren Bloom, created with Microsoft Designer AI.