

# **Advent**

## **December 21, 2025**



## **St. Luke's Eastport**

1101 Bay Ridge Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403  
[www.stlukeseastport.org](http://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](http://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.4

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as the moon and stars together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, 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

“Lo, how a rose e’er blooming”

H-81

*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.*

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.*

## Old Testament

### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*Please be seated.*

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."

*Response after the Reading:*

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

### Psalm 80

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



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **Second Reading**

**Romans 1:1-7**

*Response after the Reading:*

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*            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*



## The Gospel

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

*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](http://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* **We remember his death,**

*and People*    **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**     “Sing of Mary, pure and holy”  
*See insert for selections. Please remain seated.*

H-277

**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**                     “Soon and very soon”  
*See insert for selections. Please stand as you are able.*

**L-14**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.