

**The Second Sunday of Advent
7 December 2025 10:00 am**

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Hymn #59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: The Lord Be with You
People: *And also with you.*
Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, by whose Word all things are blessed, pour forth your love upon this wreath; and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. May we receive from you the gift of faith to receive Him when He comes again In all His glory this we ask in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Lighting the Second Candle

Speaker 1: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

Speaker 2: “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky” (Psalm 85:10-11).

The first two candles are lit.

Speaker 3: Light two candles; see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s Day.

Speaker 4: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All: *Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent's light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The Opening Acclamation
Kyrie

BCP 355
BCP 356

The Collect of the Day:

Celebrant: The Lord Be with You
People: *And also with you.*
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall
eat straw like the
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.

18 Blessed are you, O God of Israel, *
you alone do wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed is your glorious Name for ever! *
May all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

According to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to

him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you Lord Christ

The Sermon

Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People Form II

BCP 385

The Confession

BCP 360

Exchange of the *Peace*

BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving EP A

BCP 361

Sanctus

BCP 362

The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Fraction	BCP 364
Communion of the People	
Post Communion Prayer	BCP 365
The Blessing	
<i>Hymn #65</i>	<i>Prepare the way, O Zion</i>
The Dismissal	

*From The Book of Common Prayer 1979
 Hymns for the Hymnal 1982
 Psalm for the Saint Helena Psalter 2004*

For those unable to receive the physical Communion at this time
 please pray the following:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus. And let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Discernment Prayer (NEW):

Gracious and loving God, you teach us that things happen in your time. As we continue to wait for clergy candidates, encourage us, the people of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches, to grow steadfastly in our ministries to love and serve our neighbors by sharing the Good News in Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we open our hearts and minds to new

opportunities and ideas, following where you lead — knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. As this discernment period evolves, empower the members of our Vestries and Discernment Committees to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Finally, instill in us a glorious vision of the future: one where we are united in love and ministry in fulfilling the mission of our baptismal vows; through our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers for a New Priest

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, we humbly ask you to supply your grace to all priests who are called to the ministry of your peoples. Fill them with the Holy Spirit, the truth of your doctrine, and clothe them with piety so that they may faithfully serve where they are called. Open their hearts to the possibility and consideration of a new path whereby they may serve you. We beseech you to guide to us, the pastor you would have shepherd your people at St. Francis in the Fields and St. Mark's. Open the hearts of these parish families to acceptance of your choice for us, so that together, we may increase our faith, devotion, and obedience, and be prepared to readily do the good works you have planned for us to do. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Carol Adams, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Catherine McCloskey, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Stacy Moskal, Betty Burdge, Keith Hipp, and Ardean Kreasko.

Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Cynthia Frank, Louise Mead, Donovan Pendell, Cynthia Greig, Bill & Doris Horner, Dottie Venet, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Marlene Rhin, Lou Hoffer.

Food Baskets for Thanksgiving

Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations or food donations for our Thanksgiving Baskets. We were able to help 6 Families this year.

Patients at Torrence Hospital

A “Very Special” thank you to Louise Mead for spending the Day wrapping gifts for the Men at Torrence Hospital.

Thank You Rene & Trish

We would also like to thank Rene & Trish for replacing some of our worn-out kitchen items: Can Opener, Dish Cloths, Spatulas.

Readers and Greeters December 2025

If you are unable to read on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Mother Nancy know so a sub can be found in a timely manner. Thank you.

Sunday Readers

Dec. 7 th	Joann Lacko & Doug Zawiskie
Dec. 14 th	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata
Dec. 21	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Pam Hysong

Sunday Greeters & Ushers

Dec. 7 th	Amy & Penn Whitlow
Dec. 14 th	Sam & Heidi Buchan
Dec. 21	Melissa Babalonis & Aiden

Sunday: The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Dec. 7th 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II
Thursday Dec. 11th 10:00 am Pet Food Pantry

Next Sunday: The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Dec. 14th 10:00 am Morning Prayer

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park
and the Rev. Sara Irwin

Alter Flowers Given To The Greater Glory of God

In Honor and Thanksgiving
For my Mom, Carol Fyock
On Her Birthday, Dec. 7th
From Cindy Leap

In loving memory of our parents,
Anne G, and Daniel L. Wertz
From Sue K. W. Kelly and David H. Wertz

Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through
transformational worship and service.*