



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the historic Stockade District

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT IV-A - 21 DECEMBER 2025

SOLEMN HIGH MASS - RITE I, 10AM

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*

The Reverend Abigail Bee, *Parish Deacon*

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

MASS SETTING

First Communion Service

John Merbecke (1505-1585)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Savior of the nations, come

Andreas Nikolaus Vetter (1666-1734)

THE PREPARATION OF SACRED MINISTERS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

The Sacred Ministers, Servers & Choir offer Preparatory Prayers prior to the Entrance Procession

THE ENTRANCE, HYMN 57

Lo, he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

(people kneel)

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.

INTROIT

Sung by the Choir

Drop down, ye heavens from above; and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open and bring forth a Savior. Ps. The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Glory be.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

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.

THE TRISAGION, HYMNAL S-102

Sung by all, repeated x3

(people kneel)

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Advent 4

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

WE BESEECH THEE, ALMIGHTY GOD, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor 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, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

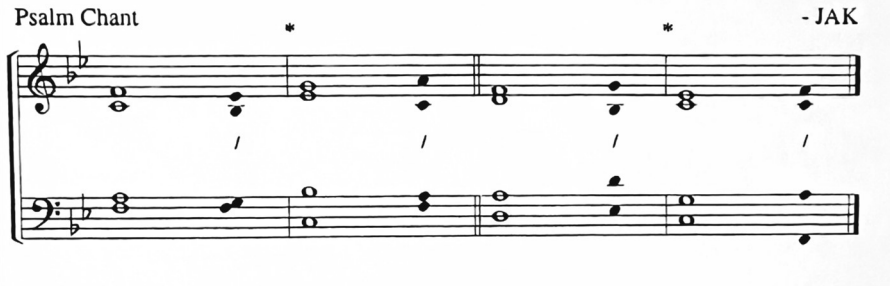
Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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."

V. The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God

THE GRADUAL:

Sung by the Choir and Congregation

Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18



- 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 Ma-**nasseh**, * 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**.

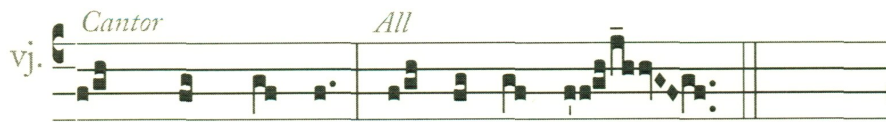
THE EPISTLE READING

Romans 1.1-7

A READING from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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.

V. The Word of the Lord R. Thanks be to God



AL - LE - LU - IA. Al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. **Alleluia.** Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. **Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1.18-25

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rector

THE NICENE CREED

(people stand)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of the People, Form IV, The Book of Common Prayer, page 388

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, 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 honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

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 PEACE

(people stand)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Savior of the nations, come

German melody, ca. 1524

OFFERTORY HYMN, HYMN 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the Celebrant and the People, with lyrics: 'The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.' The third staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.' The fourth staff is for the People, with lyrics: 'Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God. It is meet and right so to do.'

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface of Advent

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-117 (MCGREGOR)

Sung by All

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

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 Savior 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 thy 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 Savior 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, ourselves, 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 offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-157 (MERBECKE)

Sung by All

(people kneel)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Said by All

(people kneel)

WE 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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

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

COMMUNION HYMN, HYMN 104

A stable lamp is lighted

Andujar

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by All

(people kneel)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. 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 honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

(people kneel)

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 upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RETIRING PROCESSION, HYMN 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Savior of the nations, come (BWV 599)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, Rector
Deacon:	The Reverend Abigail Bee, Parish Deacon
Subdeacon:	Kevin Decker
Master of Ceremonies:	David Kennison
Organist:	Dr. Brian J. Taylor
Cantor:	Jeff Wengrovius
Thurifer:	Chris Henry
Boat Boy:	James Smigelski
Crucifer:	J. J. Moran
Acolytes:	Eric Bassant, Daniel Miess
Greeters:	Carol Gaige, Meg Hughes
Lector:	Meredith Ewbank
Counters:	Jonathan Ewbank, Gloria Kishton
Altar Guild:	Carol Gaige
Sacristans:	David & Anne Kennison



YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

The Sick and those in need: Jamie, Pat, Gabriella Rose, Katie, Chase, Pedro, Isabella, Dan Bornt, Dinorah Jimenez, Lula Fite, Nancy, Karen Perretta, K. C. Hersey, Sharon A. Wemtle, Lorna, Mike T., Richard, Abigail, Suzanne, Ann, Josh, Den, Sherrie, Ann-Marie, Lynn Paska, Larry, Robbie, Aubrey, Tamara, Sean, Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker, Anne, Fred, Anna, James, Suzie

The prayer list will be reset every 3 months. Did we miss an important date for our birthday and faithful departed intentions? If you would like a name included on the prayer list or on the annual rota of intentions, send an email to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Departed: Gloria Erickson (22), Mary Alston, Irene Mercer (24), Andrew Wright, Benjamin Clarke (27)

Birthdays: Jean Greenspan (21), Stephen Hartz (23), Isabelle Jaquith (27)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Sharon Trant (21)

Wedding Anniversaries:

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SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 21 — 9:15 a.m. The Rosary — Lady Chapel
10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass — The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Greening of the church follows

In lieu of our regular service schedule we will observe the following schedule this coming week.

Wednesday, December 24 — 4:00 p.m. — Low Mass with Carols — Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
9:30 p.m. Pre-service Carol Concert, *followed by*

10:00 p.m. — THE CHRIST MASS: Solemn High Choral Mass — Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday, December 25 — 11:00 a.m. — Sung Mass — The Nativity of Our Lord

Friday, December 26 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — St. Stephen

Saturday, December 27 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — St. John

Sunday, December 28 — 10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass — Christmas I

Monday, December 29 — 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass — Holy Innocents

WELCOME VISITORS!

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. Whether you live in our area and decided to worship with us today or if you are visiting from out of town, we offer you a warm Georgian welcome! There are visitor cards in most of the pews and we ask that you fill one out and give it to the Greeters at the door or simply drop it in the offering plate. We'd love to see you again. Our website, www.stgeorgesschenectady.org.

COFFEE HOUR Please join us for coffee hour after Mass in the Great Hall. Snacks, along with hot and cold drinks are available during this time of fellowship.

Parish Life and Beyond

THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH — After Mass today we will decorate the church for Christmas. This is both a work project and a time of fellowship as we put up the trees and greens around the church for Christmastide. Refreshments will be available in the Great Hall.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND GREENS MEMORIALS/THANKSGIVINGS — Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias and Christmas greenery for the Christmas season. You are invited to make a contribution in memory or thanksgiving of someone to offset the costs of these decorations. Please send your memorial/thanksgiving names to the church office at secretary@stgeorgesschenectady.org and then either place a check in the collection plate or send a check to the church. Memorials and Thanksgivings will be listed in the bulletins for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. WE NEED ALL NAMES BY TOMORROW, DECEMBER 22ND AT NOON!

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION — After our “Midnight Mass” on Christmas Eve we have a festive reception in the Great Hall. We are seeking sweet and savory finger food for this reception. A sign-up list is in the back of the church for those who wish to contribute food for the feast.

Around the Diocese

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS will be offered at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, this Tuesday, December 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. Brass and Organ music begin at 6:30 p.m. Early arrival is suggested.

Looking Ahead

A FEAST OF LIGHTS FOR EPIPHANY will be offered on Sunday, January 4th, at 5:00 p.m. This special service celebrates manifestation of Our Lord Jesus Christ through the coming of the Magi, His baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at Cana. The service includes a procession, readings, hymns, carols and anthems. We encourage all to attend and to invite family,

OTHER JANUARY DATES

Tuesday, January 6th, Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 11th, Annual Meeting and Luncheon, following Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m.

PRAYER LIST — If you have a name that you would like added to the prayer list please email the church office at office@StGeorgesSchenectady.org and we will insure that this person will be remembered in the prayers.

PARISH MINISTRY SCHEDULES POSTED ONLINE — The most recent schedule of greeters, lectors, counters, and altar guild is published online. If you are interested in serving as a lector, greeter, counter, or acolyte, please speak to Fr. Pettigrew or email him at rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org for more information.

SHAPE NOTE SINGING: All are welcome to experience the joy of singing together the beautiful a cappella harmonies and stirring songs of the Sacred Harp, a tune book and hymnal published in Georgia in 1844 and used in community singing throughout the world. We sing in the Great Hall on Saturday afternoons from 1-3:30pm. For schedule updates or more information, please contact Tarik Wareh or visit www.albanysacredharp.org