

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020 – 8 AM  
The Holy Eucharist – Traditional Service



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Maple Glen, PA 19002  
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[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)  
Rev. Rodney Roehner

# The Holy Eucharist

Opening Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

'82 Hymnal #56

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee of Israel!**

4. **O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

*Refrain*

5. **O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.**

*Refrain*

*Celebrant* ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity*

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.**

*Followed by 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.

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

### **The Collect of the Day**

*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 Jesus Christ 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.**

**Lessons** *Please be seated*

### **Old Testament**

### **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my

people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (read responsively by whole verse)**

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"**

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

**22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.**

23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

**24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

**26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'**

**New Testament**

**Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*Virgin Born, We Bow before Thee*

**'82 Hymnal #258**

**1. Virgin born, we bow before thee:  
blessed was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, Mother meek and mild,  
blessed was she in her Child.  
Blessed was the breast that fed thee;  
blessed was the hand that led thee;  
blessed was the parent's eye  
that watched thy slumbering infancy.**

**2. Blessed she by all creation,  
who brought forth the world's salvation,  
and blessed they, for ever blest,  
who love thee most and serve thee best.  
Virgin-born, we bow before thee;  
Blessed was the womb that bore thee;**

**Mary, Mother meek and mild,  
Blessed was she in her Child.**

**Gospel**

**Luke 1:26-38**

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

**The Nicene Creed** (*all 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.

## The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: 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.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Bishop Daniel and Fr. Rodney, 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.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, Joseph our President-elect, Thomas our Governor, all the leaders of our local governments of Montgomery and Bucks Counties, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity; especially Dorothea, Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Dorothea, Bob, Kathy, and those suffering from the COVID-19 virus.

We pray for this parish of St. Mathew's and our school, and that we may faithfully serve thee. We pray for all those serving our nation in the armed forces and their families. We also pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all people may come to the knowledge and love of Christ.



And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed ☩ this life in thy faith and fear; especially Dorothy, Clyde, and David McElwee, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says*

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 make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*Minister and People*

**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 Celebrant then stands and says*

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 Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences*

Hear what comfortable words our Savior 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. *Matthew 11:28*

God so 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. *John 3:16*

## **The Peace** *(all stand)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the Name of the Lord. Please be seated for announcements.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

arr. Marie Pooler

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Then the Celebrant proceeds*

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.

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

*Celebrant and People*

*Sanctus*

'82 Hymnal S130

**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 People kneel or sit as the Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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, 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 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,

**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.*

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

**Agnus Dei**

**'82 Hymnal S164**

**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** *(Celebrant and People)*

**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 Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says*

✠ **Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.**

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Spiritual Communion** – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where Thy Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I believe that Thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy Love. Amen.

1. Gabriel's message does away  
Satan's curse and Satan's sway,  
Out of darkness brings our Day:

*Refrain* so, behold, all the gates of heaven unfold.

2. He that comes despised shall reign;  
he that cannot die, be slain;  
death by death its death shall gain:

*Refrain*

3. Weakness shall the strong confound;  
by the hands, in grave clothes wound,  
Adam's chains shall be unbound:

*Refrain*

4. Art by art shall be assailed;  
to the cross shall Life be nailed;  
from the grave shall hope be hailed:

*Refrain*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* 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.

*The Celebrant says the following 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.**

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

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

## **Closing Hymn**

*Blest be the King*

'82 Hymnal #74

1. **Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!  
Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, come he;  
but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!**
  
3. **Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He only to the humble reveals the face of God.  
All power is his, all glory! All things are in his hand,  
All ages and all peoples, till time itself shall end!**
  
4. **Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!  
He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.  
Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,  
for he would have us bear it so he can make us free!**





We invite you to make a small pilgrimage to our church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to encounter our outdoor nativity scene, and to share the light of Christ with members of our community.

**Please arrive with a gift of a non-perishable food donation for a local food pantry. Bins will provided.**

### Opportunities for All

Parents can interact with their children at our outdoor nativity, complete with the figures of Christmas. Kids can lay out hay for our stable guests, scoop gifts of “frankincense and myrrh,” and lead a beautiful family prayer.

All are invited to pray devotions provided at the stable, and to take some Epiphany chalk and prayers home with you!

### COVID-19 Precautions

While on Saint Matthew's campus, we ask that the whole family dons a mask, remains socially distant, and uses the provided hand sanitizer before touching or using anything at the site.

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### **2021 Pledge Envelopes**

If you requested pledge envelopes, they are now available in a bin at the top of the steps outside the narthex double doors.



### **Help Father Rodney Get to Know You!**

Given the current pandemic situation, it isn't safe to hold the kind of in-person gatherings that we would like with our new rector. Help Father Rodney put faces to names by sending him an email at [rector@saintmattsec.org](mailto:rector@saintmattsec.org) with photos of you and your family!

### **Lifelong Learning Adult Forum:**

The Adult Forum will be joining with many other Episcopal parishes during Epiphany, reading the Gospel of Mark. Organized by Forward Movement, the Gospel is divided into daily readings, which we will be discussing in our education hour on Sunday mornings. You can find more information

@ [www.goodbookclub.org](http://www.goodbookclub.org). Please join us!

<https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaFtQT02>

Here is a listing of the dates and the verses covered:

January 3 - introduction and Mark 1

January 10 - Mark 2 through Mark 4

January 17- Mark 5:1-7:13

January 24 - Mark 7:14-9:32

January 31- Mark 9:33-11:33

February 7 - Mark 12:1-14:11

February 14 - Mark 14:12 - 16:20 (end)