

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020 – 9:30 AM  
The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



919 Tennis Ave  
Maple Glen, PA 19002  
215-646-4092  
[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)  
Rev. Rodney Roehner

# The Holy Eucharist

Opening Hymn

*Look to the Skies*

Graham Kendrick

*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, 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. **Amen.**

## Kyrie

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.

*People* **Amen.**

## The 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.**

**Meditation**

*What a Savior*

**by Jeremiah Jones**

**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*)

**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 worshiped 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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Daniel our bishop, Rodney our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Donald our President, Joseph our President-elect, Thomas our Governor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Dorothea, Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Dorothea, Bob, and Kathy;

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

Give to the departed, especially Dorothy, Clyde, and David McElwee, and those who have died as a result of the coronavirus eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, our patron, and all your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for our church family and preschool, for all who serve in our nation in the armed forces and their families, for first responders and health care workers, for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

## **General Confession**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* **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 our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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

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

*People* **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Offertory**

*Mary Did You Know*

by Mark Lowry

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

by Larry Hampton

*The Celebrant continues*



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.**

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

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

### **Holy Communion**

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

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my

soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in Thy Love. Amen.

## Communion Hymn

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **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.**

*The Celebrant says the following blessing*

The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

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

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

## Service Hymn

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

by Paul Baloche

# ST MATTHEW'S INVITES YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 P.M. EUCHARIST &  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (VIA  
ZOOM, [TINYURL.COM/STM-  
CHRISTMASEVE](https://tinyurl.com/stm-christmaseve))

5:00 P.M. CONTEMPORARY  
EUCHARIST (LIVESTREAM)

7:00 TRADITIONAL  
EUCHARIST (LIVESTREAM)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 A.M. HOLY  
EUCHARIST  
(LIVESTREAM)

LIVESTREAM ADDRESS:  
[SAINTMATTSEC.ORG/LIVESTREAM/](https://saintmattsec.org/livestream/)



*Come Visit the Outside Creche at St. Matthew's*



*Christmas Eve 2020*

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=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaFtQT09>

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)