



**St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
*The First Sunday in Advent*  
 Rite 1  
 December 1, 2024  
 9:30 am

**Welcome to St. Francis.** Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

PRELUDE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Hymnal p. 66

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### First Sunday of Advent

Leader: O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us.  
Desire of all nations; Gift to every generation,  
Come, make your home with us.

**All: All nations and peoples every  
where are waiting for you,  
People in our country are waiting for you.  
People in all the nations of the world are waiting for you.  
Jesus, come to us.**

*The first candle is lit.*

Leader: O God, as light comes from this candle,  
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,  
warming our hearts and brightening our way.

**All: May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of this world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.**

#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

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.**

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.

**Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY  
*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
**People: And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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.**

*All sit for the lessons*

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

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

**People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to thee, O Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Toni Belhu

*Silence may be kept after the homily.*

*All stand, as able*

THE NICENE CREED

**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.**

## 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 Jose our Bishop and Toni our Rector, 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, 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.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Today we pray especially for **James, John, Ruth, Helen, June, Jerri, Lyn, Jeanne, Judi, Marsha, Patricia, Roger, Fran, Caleb, Bob, Ellen, and all those on our long-term prayer list.** Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Elmira White (1), Wilhelmina White (1), Penelope Nall (5), Stella Turner (5), Oscar Paquette (6).**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Christian, Brendan, Will, Christopher, Nick, Chase, Hudson, Kim.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Andrew's in Bessemer City and St. Andrew's in Canton. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for **Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.**

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Francis of 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.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN  
*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Book of Common Prayer p. 330

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**



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.**

Hear the Word of God to 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*

THE PEACE

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

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

*The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

***ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.***

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

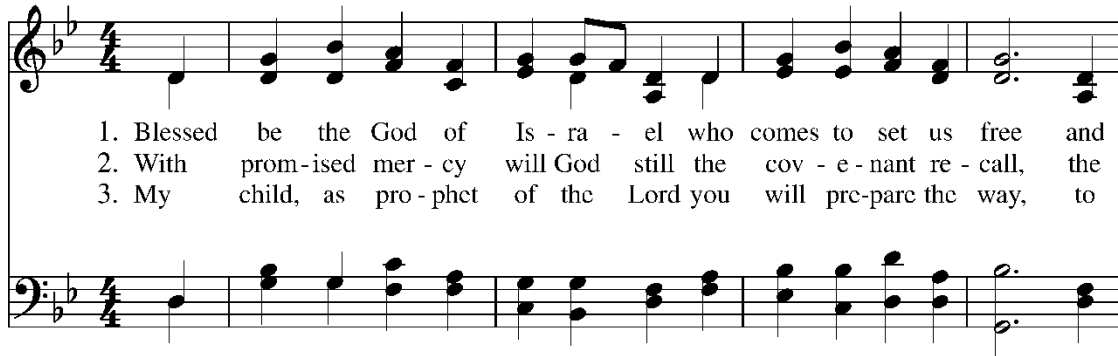
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*All stand, as able*

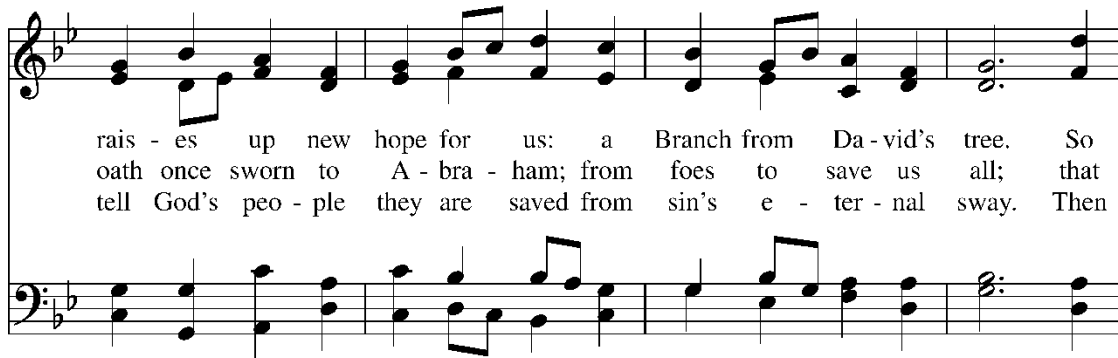
## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

## The Song of Zechariah (Canticle 16)

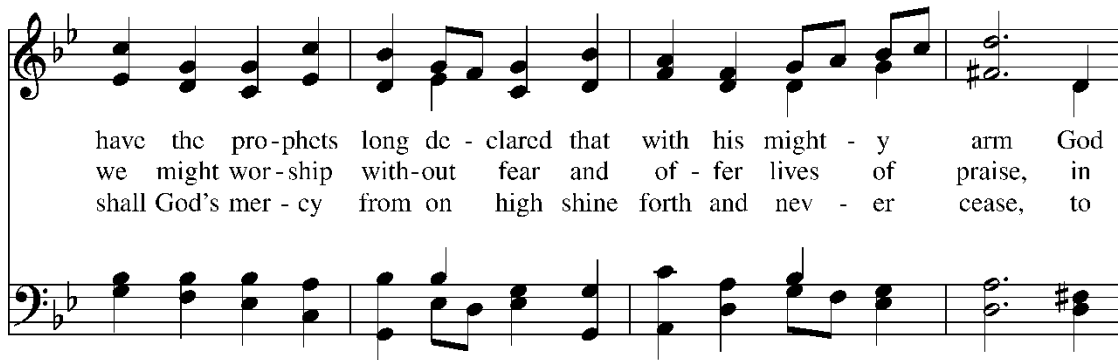
WLP p. 889



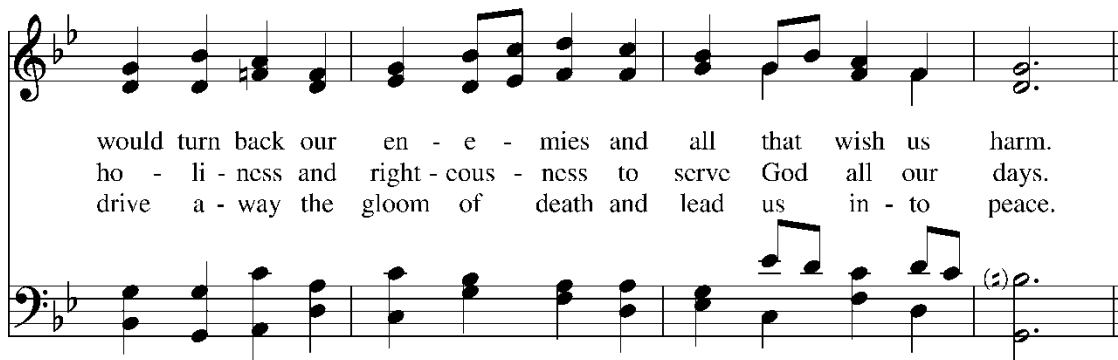
1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and  
2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the  
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre-pare the way, to



rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So  
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that  
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the pro-phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God  
we might wor-ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in  
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to



would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.  
ho - li - ness and right - cous - ness to serve God all our days.  
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Music: *Shepherd's Pipes*, Annabeth McClelland Gay (b. 1925).

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology.

## THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Eucharist Prayer I

*The people remain standing.*

*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, facing the Holy Table, 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,

## THE SANCTUS

Hymnal p. S-129

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then 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.

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 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,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.*

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

AGNUS DEI

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 following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

**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.**

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

*To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.*

Bet - ter be read - y; Bet-ter be read - y; Bet-ter be  
 Read - y; read - y

Bet-ter be read - y to try on your  
 read - y; Ready to try try your on your  
 read - y to try your

1. Bet - ter be 2. **Fine**  
 1. Oh! rise up chil - dren,  
 2. What a glo - ri - ous morn - ing  
 3. O shout you Christ - ians, you're  
 4. I soon shall reach that  
 long white robe! long white robe Hm

1. get your crown, And by your Sav - ior's  
 2. that will be, Our friends and Je - sus  
 3. gain - ing ground, We'll shout old Sa - tan's  
 4. gold - en shore, And sing the songs we  
 Bet - ter be read - y to try on your  
 Read - y to try try your long white robe! Hm  
 to try your

1. side sit down. 1.2.3.4. Bet - ter be  
 2. we shall see.  
 3. king - dom down!  
 4. sang be - fore.  
 Bet - ter be read - y to try on your **D.S.**  
 Read - y to try try your long white robe!  
 To try your **D.S.**

*Harmony*

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord, what a morn-ing, — O

my Lord, what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to fall.

**Fine**

*Unison*

1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound, —  
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, — To wake the  
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, —

na - tions un - der - ground, — Look - ing to my God's right

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

**D.C.**

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.





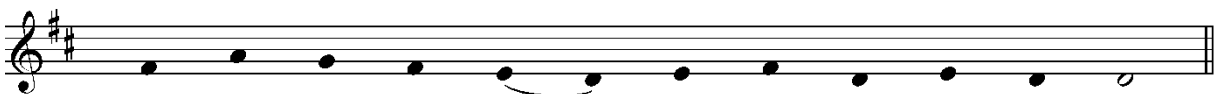
1 Hum - bly I a - dore thee, Ver - i - ty un - seen,  
 2 Taste and touch and vi - sion to dis - cern thee fail;  
 3 O me - mo - rial won - drous of the Lord's own death;  
 4 Je - sus, whom now hid - den, I by faith be - hold,



who thy glo - ry hid - est 'neath these sha - dows mean;  
 faith, that comes by hear - ing, pierc - es through the veil.  
 liv - ing Bread that giv - est all thy crea - tures breath,  
 what my soul doth long for, that thy word fore - told:



lo, to thee sur - ren - dered, my whole heart is bowed,  
 I be - lieve what - e'er the Son of God hath told;  
 grant my spi - rit ev - er by thy life may live,  
 face to face thy splen - dor, I at last shall see,



tranced as it be - holds thee, shrined with - in the cloud.  
 what the Truth hath spo - ken, that for truth I hold.  
 to my taste thy sweet - ness nev - er - fail - ing give.  
 in the glo - rious vi - sion, bless - ed Lord, of thee.

Words: Att. Thomas Aquinas (1225?-1274); sts. 1-3, tr. *Hymnal 1940*; st. 4, tr. *Hymnal 1982*. Sts. 1-3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Adoro devote*, French church melody, Mode 5, *Processionale*, 1697; acc. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1 O ve - ry God of ve - ry God, and  
 2 Our hopes are weak, our fears are strong, thick  
 3 And e - ven now, though dull and gray, the  
 4 O guide us till our path is done, and  
 5 We wait in faith, and turn our face to

1 ve - ry Light of Light, whose feet this earth's dark  
 2 dark - ness blinds our eyes; cold is the night; thy  
 3 east is bright - ening fast, and kin - dling to the  
 4 we have reached the shore where thou, our ev - er -  
 5 where the day - light springs, till thou shalt come our

1 val - ley trod that so it might be bright:  
 2 peo - ple long that thou, their Sun, wouldst rise.  
 3 per - fect day that nev - er shall be past.  
 4 last - ing Sun, art shin - ing ev - er - more!  
 5 gloom to chase, with heal - ing in thy wings.

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Music: *Bangor*, from *A Compleat Melody or Harmony of Zion*, 1734.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: Josephine, James, Zoey, Addison, Brenda, Tony, Judy, Ricky, Billy, Mary, Greg, Max, Johny, Layla Rose, Edwin, Sherry, Mark, Oscar, Lynn, Kensley, Malisha, Madison, Jim, Shirley, John, Billy, Beverly, Robin, Ricky, Mary, Shirley, Tony, Haden, Debbie, Chris, Roger, Linda, Judy, Janet, Wesley, Debbie, Charles, Sandra, Sally, Lyn, Lucinda, Gillian, Fran, Jack, Dee, Charles, Morgan, the Ruckle family, Paul, Thorin, Karen, Tommy, Phil, Renee, Gordon, Gary, Annie, Thad, Rita, Marissas, the Campbell family, Larry, Janet, Danny, Jenny, Tim, Gary, Terry, Robin, Susan, Beverly, Kat, Lynn, Tricia, Chris, Dakota, Don, Gordon, Cynthia, Julia, Ambrose, Amberleigh, Susan, the Gustafson family, the Melton family, the Hood family, Bobby, Virginia, Chuck, Roger, Taby, Nicky, Amia, Jeanene, Nancy, Robyn, Dan, Shannon, Ainsley, Butch, Pam, Les, Meagan, Scott, Sheri, Malisha, the Degree family, X'Zavier, Max, Annie, Jane, Bobbi, Gwen, Skip, Pamela, Kathleen, Billy, Sue, Jane, Shelley, Sherill, Sandra, the Aytes family, Jody.

**Worship Leaders  
9:30**

Usher – Harold Morgan  
Greeter – Darlene Geffert  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Paula Hammond  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Allison Ross  
Chalicerist – Richard Williams  
Acolyte – Walt Joyce  
Vestry Lock Up – Linda Jeanne Harrill  
Camera – Rob McDaniel  
Children’s Church – Linda Tribou,  
Kathryn McGowan  
Fellowship – Annual Meeting Brunch  
Thurifer – Nancy Bole

**Worship Leaders for next Sunday  
9:30 am**

Usher – Rebecca Melton  
Greeter – Michael Hammond  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson – Allison Ross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson – Gordon Scott  
Chalicerist – Harold Morgan  
Acolyte – Anthony Guarriello  
Vestry Lock Up – Steve Ross  
Camera – Rob McDaniel  
Children’s Church – Linda Tribou,  
Anita Quinley  
Fellowship – Paula & Michael  
Hammond

**Saint Francis Episcopal Church**

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Parish Administrator: *Kathryn McGowan*  
Email: [administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org](mailto:administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org)  
Organist: *Steven Noll*  
Sexton: *Debbie Hamrick*  
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