

Third Sunday in Advent

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

December 14, 2025

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

No. 59

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

so when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit, while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)

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A Penitential Order: Rite One

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen

Hear what our Lord Jesus 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. *Matthew 22:37-40 The Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins,
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy
Spirit. Amen.

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

The Collect of the Day

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are
sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver
us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor
and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;*
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The Epistle

James 5:7-10

A Reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation! at the midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B. Findlater

Music: *Llangloffan*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory be to thee, O Lord

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Martin Gutwein

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.

The Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Sisters and brothers, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Let us seek the Lord, praying, "Let us see your glory, O Lord; come to us and save us!"

Lord, save your Church from weakness of heart. Give us strength to prepare this world for the coming of your Christ and give us patience when it seems Christ's kingdom does not come quickly enough.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Lord, save this nation from disordered priorities and misplaced hope. May our values mirror your values. May we be a nation that offers justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry and care to the stranger.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Lord, save your creation from human misuse. Bless us to play a part in the redemption you have planned for all of creation.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Lord, save this city from hopelessness. Give us a vision and a future. Raise up prophets who will speak hope and encouragement to the people of our region.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Lord, save the sick and the sorrowful in the midst of their affliction. May they experience the healing work of their Messiah. Make happy all those who have you for their help.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Lord, bless all members of your heavenly kingdom. May they obtain eternal joy and gladness in your presence—where sorrow and sighing are no more.

Let us see your glory, O Lord;
People: Come to us and save us!

Celebrant adds a concluding collect

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem **“Amazing Grace”** Arr. Jean Anne Shafferman
(Pachelbel’s Canon)

Eucharistic Prayer II

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

 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 to the Lord our God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

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

*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 celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues

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

A period of silence is kept.

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

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 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*

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 314

Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen,
who thy glory hidest 'neath these shadows mean;
lo, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed,
tranced as it beholds thee, shrined within the cloud.

Taste and touch and vision to discern thee fail;
faith, that comes by hearing, pierces through the veil.
I believe whate'er the Son of God hath told;
what the Truth hath spoken, that for truth I hold.

O memorial wondrous of the Lord's own death;
living Bread that givest all thy creatures breath,
grant my spirit ever by thy life may live,
to my taste thy sweetness never-failing give.

Jesus, whom now hidden, I by faith behold,
what my soul doth long for, that thy word foretold:
face to face thy splendor, I at last shall see,
in the glorious vision, blessed Lord, of thee.

Words: St. Thomas Aquinas. Music: *Adoro Devote*,
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People together say

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 priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

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

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 72

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge Music: *Richmond*, melody, Thomas Haweis, adapt. Samuel Webbe, desc. Craig Sellar Lang

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Notes and Announcements

December 14, 2025

PRAYER LIST

Anglican Cycle of Prayer for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil...

Diocesan Calendar of Prayer for The Revs. Tinh Trang Huynh, John T. Koenig, Paul Shoaf Kozak, Canon Dr. Donald J. Muller, Tammy M. Young...

Parish Calendar of Prayer for the Ministry of our Acolytes...

For Our sons and daughters in the Military for Nathan, Kenny, Zach, Jack, Garrett, Willie, Charley, Erin...

For those Celebrating Birthdays this Week Al Santiago 12/15; Jeremy Gallo 12/17...

For the Sick, Suffering & Infirm Denise, Dan Sr., Stephen, Matt, Mark, Tanya, Joseph, Julia, Olivia, Lisa, Amanda, John, Sue, Bob, Dennis, Alex, Lisa, Ben, Margie, Virginia, Brigid, Sharon C., Kate, Megan, Lisa & Frank, Mindy, Carol, Michael, Douglas, Christine, Al, Barbara, Maureen, Drew, Alec, Greg, Tina, Mark L, Michael, Audrey, John, Colleen, Bob N, Kay, Milton, Shelley, Buddy, Bob, Gordon, Maggie, Cindy, Tim ...

PLEASE WELCOME OUR GUEST ORGANIST, Steve Kwiatkowski, who is filling in for Cindy again this week.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WELCOME The Rev. Martin Gutwein whose ongoing care of our Holy Trinity family is deeply appreciated.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, December 14 – **TONIGHT** Candlelight Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 16 – Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 21 – Jesse Tree Presentation 9:00 a.m. service.
- Sunday, December 21 – Final indoor church decorating 1:00 p.m.

**At the church this week:*

- Monday evening: AA 7:00 to 9:00, Parish Hall
- Tuesday evening: Vestry Meeting, Library
- Wednesday evening: Boy Scouts 7:00-9:00, Parish Hall

**Note – Additional events are added frequently. All facility usage should be coordinated through the Verger to ensure no double booking of spaces.*



LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON OUTREACH DONATIONS –

Any gift cards, gloves, mittens, or other donations must be received no later than this Tuesday. If you forgot yours, please plan to drop them by the church on Tuesday morning when Charlotte is in the office. Thank you for your generosity!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Our next Sunday School session will be Sunday, January 4. We meet the first and third Sundays of each month, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Activities include a children's chapel service, followed by age-appropriate activities for children and youth from pre-K through high school. Contact Theresa Hoyt-Chattin (609) 941-1651 for more information.

ALL YARN LOVERS - KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS usually meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month during or after coffee hour in the Parish Hall.. If you are a novice or never tried using knitting needles or a crochet hook, we have quite a few people in our group who would help you get started on your first project. Any questions? Call Sharon Wolfgang at 856-854-2643 or leave a message at the Church 856-858-0491.

UPCYCLING GREETING CARD PROGRAM – Please bring in no longer wanted greeting cards and leave them in the box at the back of the Church. They will be given to St. John of God Community Services in Westville. The Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Services group will remove the front of each card to create a new greeting. For more information call Craig Burgess at 856-240-7337.

ONLINE GIVING– To make it easier to make your weekly offering, just follow the link on the [Holy Trinity website](#) to send your contribution electronically through Vanco. (You are still welcome to mail your weekly offering if it is easier for you.) Thank you for your continued financial support.

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The Christmas Season at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church



Last Sunday in Advent – December 21

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I with Hymns

Christmas Eve—December 24

5:00 PM – Creche Service and Family Mass

11:00 PM – Festival Midnight Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day—December 25

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I with Carols

First Sunday after Christmas—December 28

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I with Carols

Second Sunday after Christmas—January 4

9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Celebration of the Epiphany



**Christmas
at
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Collingswood, New Jersey**

**Offering for Poinsettias,
Greens & Decorations
or
Special Music**



In memory of (or thanksgiving for)

Please Check One: ☐ Flowers ☐ Music

Amount of donation \$ _____

Given by

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

*Please complete and return to the church office
or place in the offering plate no later than
Sunday, December 21st*