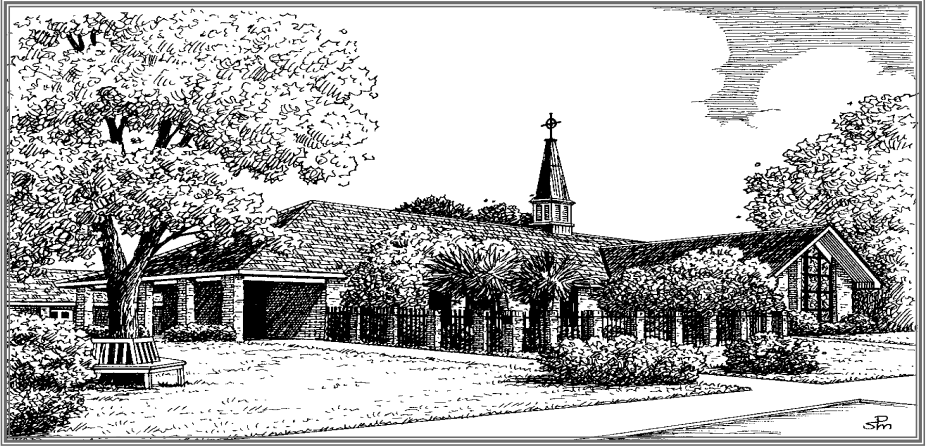


ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8833 Goodwood Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70806
www.stlukesbr.org 225.926.5343 www.stlukesbrschool.org

December 21, 2025—10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Worshipping God; Caring for others; Growing in Christ.

(Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:14; Ephesians 4:15)

The Reverend Dr. Bryan Owen, Rector

The Reverend Trish Toburen, Associate Rector & Chaplain

Mission Statement:

*“We are a community committed to caring for one another,
to spiritual growth, and to bringing others closer
to God through Jesus Christ.”*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD FROM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The following is sung by the Congregation, all standing

Opening Hymn

No. 56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1-4

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant may read a sentence of scripture.

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Priest, stands and says

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 following is sung by the Congregation.

Kyrie eleison

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand and remain standing for the Gospel.

The following is sung by the Congregation.

Sequence Hymn

No. 56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 5-8

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon or Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Karen Snyder

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

Written by St. Luke's Youth

Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Silence

We pray for the Church and Christians around the world. We pray you strengthen their faith, encourage their hearts, and empower them to be bold witnesses of your love.

Silence

We pray for the leaders of this nation, especially President Trump, Governor Landry and Mayor-President Edwards. We ask that they be guided by principles of peace, justice, and respect for human dignity.

Silence

We pray for the world and its inhabitants, especially those who are vulnerable—the poor, the hungry, the displaced, and those affected by natural disasters. Strengthen those who work to bring aid and comfort, and open our hearts to be instruments of Your love and mercy. Teach us to be faithful stewards of Your gifts, caring for the land, waters, and all living creatures.

Silence

We pray for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, especially, Bishop Duckworth and all who hold leadership positions in the church. That they may be filled with Your grace, encouraged in their calling, and equipped to nurture and guide those they serve.

Silence

We pray for the community of St. Luke's and its leaders, including Fr. Bryan, Mtr. Trish, the vestry, building committee and all other ministries of St. Luke's. We ask that you bless this congregation, that we may be a people of hospitality, compassion, and grace. Strengthen the bonds that unite us, and help us to support and encourage one another in our faith journey.

Silence

We pray for the greater Baton Rouge community, the police department, and the fire department, including their leaders, police chief Morse and fire chief Kimble. Grant them wisdom in their leadership, courage in their service and strength for each new day. Watch over

them as they risk their lives for the safety and well-being of others.

Silence

We pray for those battling illness, pain or facing uncertainty, that they will experience light and hope in moments of darkness or despair. Grant them strength, wisdom, patience, compassion, and rest.

Silence

We pray for the departed and ask that you surround the grieving with Your love. Give them the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Rutter

What Sweeter Music

Doxology

Hymn No. 380, v.3

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.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said by the Celebrant who then continues with

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The following is sung by the Congregation.

Sanctus

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 stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your

people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to 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.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant

Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

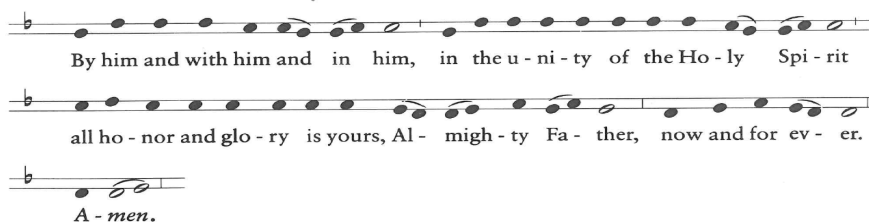
The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Conclusion of the Prayer: Solemn Tone



The Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant and People

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed

be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our

dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,

as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead

us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us

from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,

and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God.
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God

Receiving Holy Communion - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in The Episcopal Church.

The following is sung by the Congregation.

Communion Hymn No. 54
Savior of the Nations, Come

Communion Hymn No. 248
To the Name of Our Salvation

When there is a dismissal of Lay Eucharistic Visitors, the following form is used:

Dismissal of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant and People say together:

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many share one bread, one cup, because we are one Body in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

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.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

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

The following is sung by the Congregation, all standing

Closing Hymn

No. 66

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Dismissal

A Deacon or Priest says the Dismissal

The People respond: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lay Ministers Serving Today

Acolyte

Blake Binck

Katie Boone

Tinsley Boone

Altar Guild

Susan Alligood
Joan Barron
Lynda Bedeian
Margot Gonzales

Liz Guerry
Jan MacNaughton
Marsha Sills

Lector

Harrison Breaux
Malcolm Juban

Samantha Goar

LEM

Becky Williams

Lacey Anderson

MC

Wanda Allphin

Usher

Youth

LEV

Denise Carvalho

Mary Tharp

Greeter

Youth

Flower Guild

Loree Fields

Jean Blanche

Parish Choir

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennie Bae | Robin Sills |
| Skyler Bluemel | Sarah Stogner-Dickinson |
| Owen Cope | Ben Thomas |
| Sharon Delamar | Laura Thomas |
| Don Hill | Nina Wachter |
| Steve Irving | Dr. Richard Webb |
| Keith James | Dr. Mark Zielinski |
| Jennifer Johnson | Rhonda Zielinski |
| Cody King | Wilma Loe, Accompanist |
| Katherine Norton | Terry R. Bowman, Director |
| Dr. Jo Ann Puissegur | |

Hospitality Team

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Marianne Denker | Robin Coever |
| Joanne Carver | Jean Blanche |
| Brookie Allphin | Robin Sills |
| Jason Danos | Carolyn Grace Millet |
| Mary Leteff | Brittany Allphin-Smith |
| Rob Hawkins | Wanda Halkett |
| Bridget Collins | Margo Gonzalez |
| Jackie Lawless | Chinyere Agu |
| Wilma Desselle | |

Vestry

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Joe Kahler-Sr. Warden | Sharon Edmon |
| Courtney Breaux-Jr. Warden | Steve Irving |
| Janie Braud-Secretary | Adam MacDowell |
| Lacey Allphin Anderson | Gloria McKenzie |
| Brian Binck | David Palmer |
| Gordon Denker | Laura Thomas |

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE
GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY
THEIR FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF
JIM AND BETTY CASSIDY