

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church



Holy Eucharist Rite II

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 8 & 9:30a.m.

(The Lines in bold italics are spoken by the people.)

We are all guests at the Lord's Table. All baptized Christians are
welcome to receive Holy Communion.

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Holy Trinity Bartow • Come and See

Processional Hymn: 657 *“Love divine, all loves excelling”* (vs. 1-3)

- 1.** *Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*
- 2.** *Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*
- 3.** *Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Server Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of HOPE, PEACE and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

Celebrant “From the Gospel of John we hear: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”—John 13:34-35

Let us pray: ***Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.***

The Word of God

BCP p.355

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

Collect for 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***

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People ***Christ, have mercy.***
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

BCP p.357

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. ***Amen.***



The Lessons: (*we sit*)

The First Reading: 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.***

The Second Reading: (read responsively) BCP p.803

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.

The Epistle

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.***

(We all stand)

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

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

The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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 The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***



The Sermon (we sit)

The Nicene Creed (we stand) BCP p.358

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, Form V (*we kneel if able*)

BCP p.389

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Justin our Bishop, Greg & John our retired bishops; Becky our priest, Pattie our Deacon, and Russell our seminarian, and for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those in positions of public trust, especially our president and governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. We give thanks for those who are serving our country: Cole, Keith, David, Monique, Gabriel, Gabe, Matt, and Naomi & Kolten. We pray for James, Jonah and Ethan who are deployed in service to our country. We also pray for our first responders, especially Ben & Zachary. We pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors, that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health. We pray for our Members: Mark, Beverly, Nolan, Mel, Lisa, Sharon, Sylvia, Allene, Susie & Dabney. We pray for our Family & Friends: Patricia Parker, Diane B., Art R., DeeDee T., Aaron T., Leslie T., Donna S., Cindy T., Janine Polk, Sharron Simmons, Gerry Crews, Betty Fitzgerald, Meryl Crews, Grace Meacham, Archie Conners, Tenley Sylvain, Rac, and Tommy Stokes, and we offer prayers for those not able to join us; especially Hope and Karen. We pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For Churches in our Diocese: St. Matthias, Clermont; and for St. Mark's, Cocoa; We pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. ***To you, O Lord our God.***

Celebrant For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Leader and People saying together

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 the absolution.

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 *(we stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Happy Anniversary to you!
May God Bless you now and all year through.
May the Love of Jesus fill your hearts with joy!
Happy Anniversary to you!*

Offertory

Celebrant says the Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music

Tim Davis

The Doxology

sung together

Hymn 380

*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 Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p.367

Celebrant and People (we stand)

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.***

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. Through

Jesus Christ our Lord; 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:

Celebrant and People

Hymn S-130 Sanctus “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (*sung*)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

The Celebrant continues (we sit or kneel as able)

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.

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

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

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.

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 forever. ***Amen.***

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p.364

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!***

Celebrant 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.

The Communion



Communion Music

Tim Davis

The Body and Blood of Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Now in thanksgiving, let us pray together.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given

us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever Amen.

The Blessing *The Priest blesses the people.*

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.**

Recessional Hymn: 56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1,5-6)

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

CHORUS: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

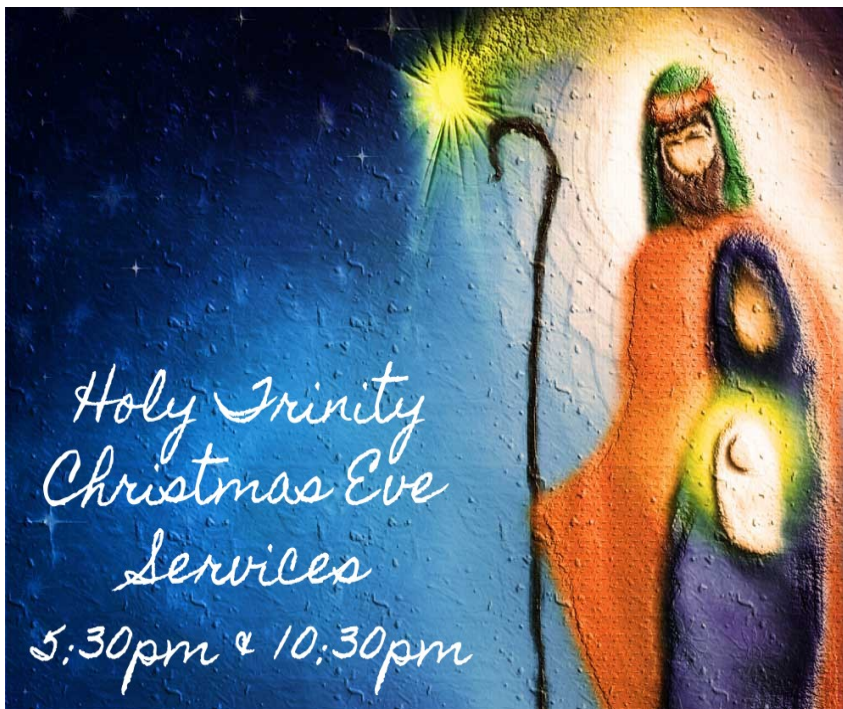
**6. O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing
nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to
flight. CHORUS**

**7. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
CHORUS**

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

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***



The Church has several pending capital needs to maintain our buildings and infrastructure: the Rectory needs re-roofing; the Sanctuary must be tented again for termites; the metal beams on Carlton Hall & school building wings require rust remediation & painting; and the irrigation system needs renovation and repair.

Quotes are still being finalized, but it is clear a capital campaign is appropriate to raise well in excess of \$75,000. The Building and Endowment funds have committed \$25,000 each. The remainder needs to be funded by parish families. Advance commitments for more than half have already been received. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the effort. Designate gifts to the Building Fund.

Serving Us Today: Altar Guild Team 1:
George Ann Hodges and Sarah & Nim Korda



May God Bless your special day!

Birthdays

Anniversaries

December 27—Cathy & Nicolas Gibbons

SCAN ME



- Pledge Cards available in the Narthex
- Friday 8am Parish Breakfast
- There is no youth group today
- Lessons & Carols on Dec 28th
- Annual Meeting Jan 11th in Carleton Hall, potluck to follow.

Sunday, Dec 14, 2025

Worship Attendance— 54

Tithes & Offerings— \$ 2,365.00

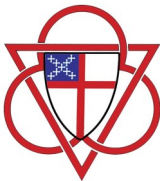
Weekly Budget—\$4,712 .00

Dec 21, Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18



Bishop: *The Rt. Rev. Justin Holcomb*

Rector: *Very Rev. Becky Toalster*

Deacon: *Deacon Pattie Behnstedt*

Senior Warden: *Byron Walker*

Junior Warden: *Keith Miller*

Parish Administrator/Sexton: *Wayne Troxler*

Accompanist: *Tim Davis*

Nursery: *Dalmaris Suarez*