St. John's Episcopal Church
Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love



The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 10am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Variations on the chorale Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*
Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

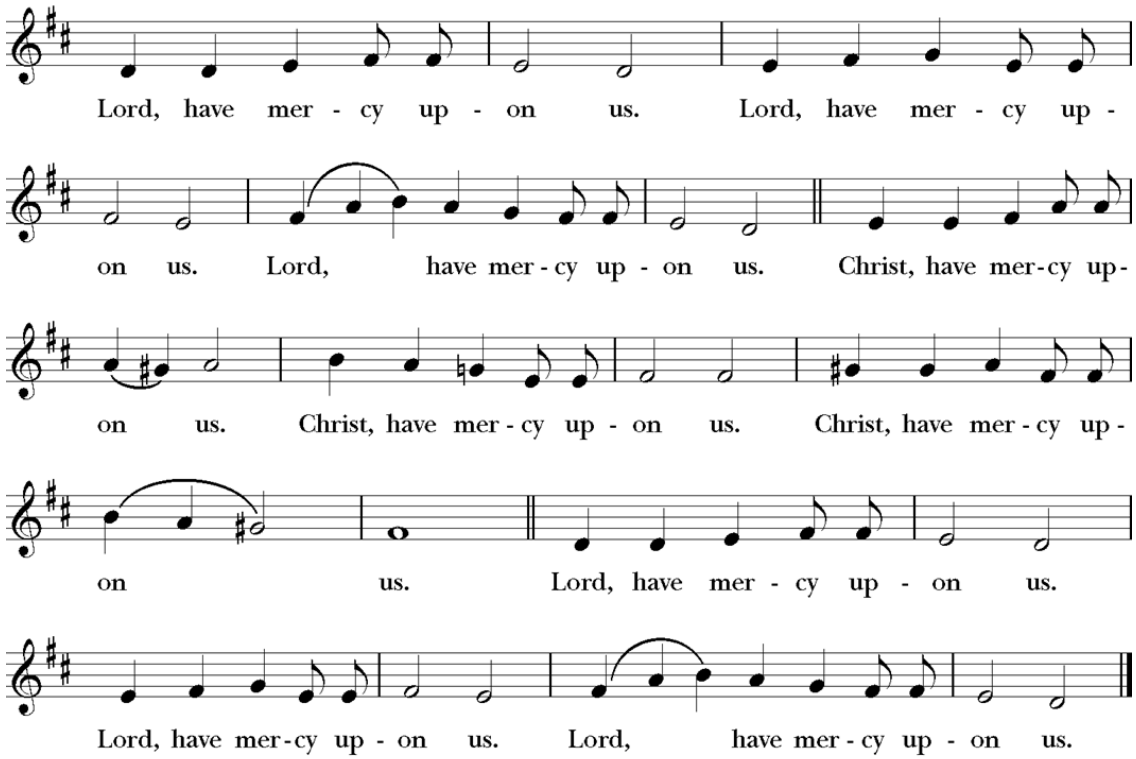
THE WORD OF GOD

All stand to sing the
Opening Hymn #601 *O day of God draw nigh* ST. MICHAEL

Opening Acclamation
Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Collect for Purity

The Kyrie S-91
All remain standing to sing the



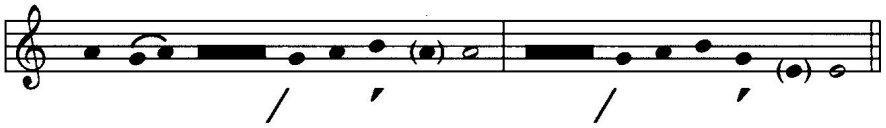
The Collect of the Day *insert*

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

The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 *insert*

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

Psalm 80 *Qui regis Israel* *Tone IV.4*



1 *Hear, Ö* Shepherd of Israel, leading / Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned / upon the chérubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, / and Manásseh, *
stir up your strength / and come to hélp us.

3 Restore / us, O Gód of hosts; *
show the light of your counte/nance, and we shall be saved.

4 —/O LORD Gód of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the / prayers of your péople?

5 You have fed them / with the bréad of tears; *
you have given / them bowls of téars to drink.

6 You have made us the derision / of our néighbors, *
and our en/emies laugh ús to scorn.

7 Restore / us, O Gód of hosts; *
show the light of your counte/nance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man / of your right hand, *

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 Gód of hosts; *
show the light of your counte/nance, and we shall be saved. *[Ant.]*

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *insert*

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

Sequence Hymn #68 *Rejoice! Rejoice, believers* LLANGLOFFAN

Verses 1 and 2 will be sung before the reading of the Gospel.
Verse 3 will be sung after the reading.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37 *insert*

Presider The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

The Sermon The Rector

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 Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Tony, Lyn, Megan, Lin, David, Gloria and Roger, Jack, Ned, Katherine, Lisa, Beth, and all those we now name either silently or aloud.

Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

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 Peace

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

All are invited to exchange greetings of peace.

Welcome and Announcements of our Ministries The Rector

Offertory Hymn #616 *Hail to Lord's anointed* ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALVOGELEIN

During the Offertory Hymn, our ushers will pass the collection plate. You are welcome to make an offering by leaving cash or a check in the plate, or by scanning the QR code to donate online via Tithe.ly.

Whether you are able to support our ministry financially or not, please know that you are invited to full participation in this church on exactly the same terms and conditions as God's grace and love: completely free of charge.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

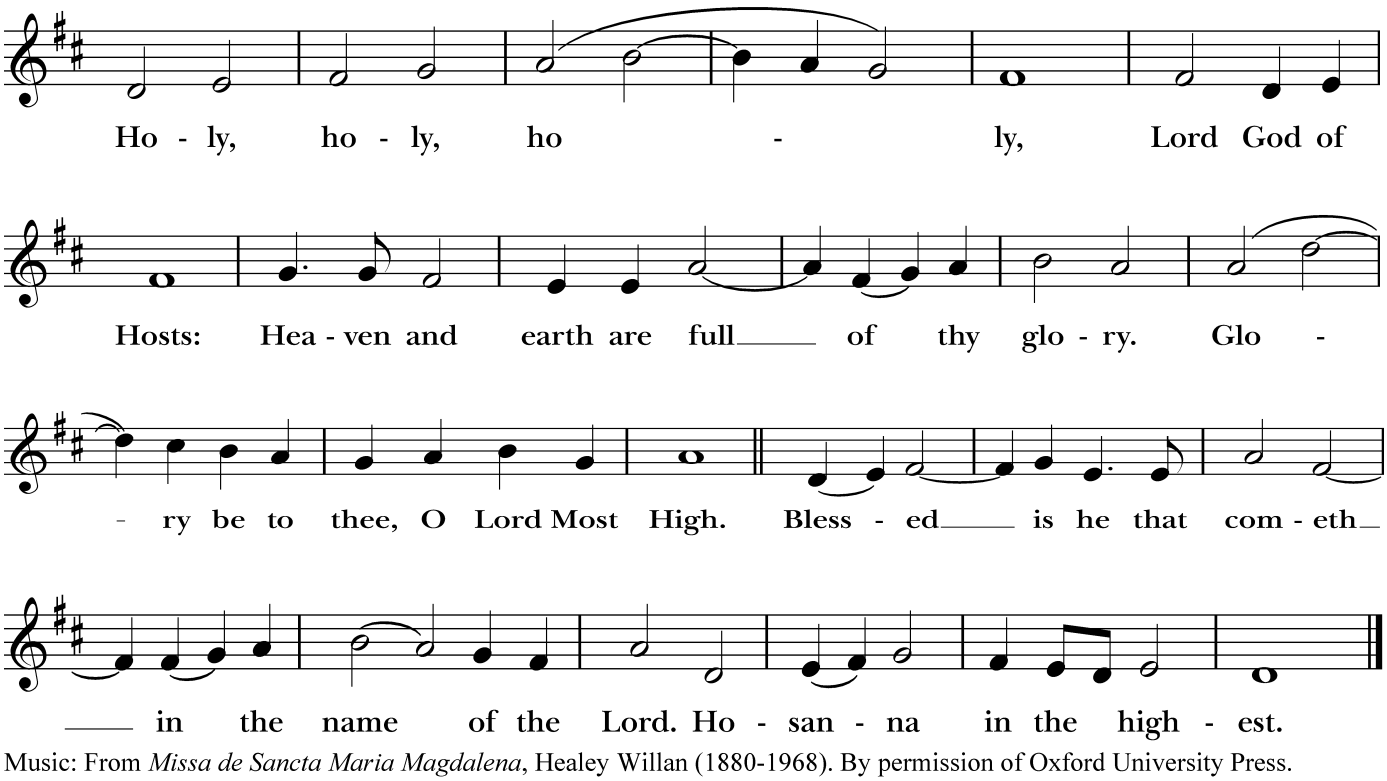
The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Presider gives thanks to God, continuing until the words

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 Sanctus S-114



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Presider continues the Eucharistic Prayer, continuing until the words

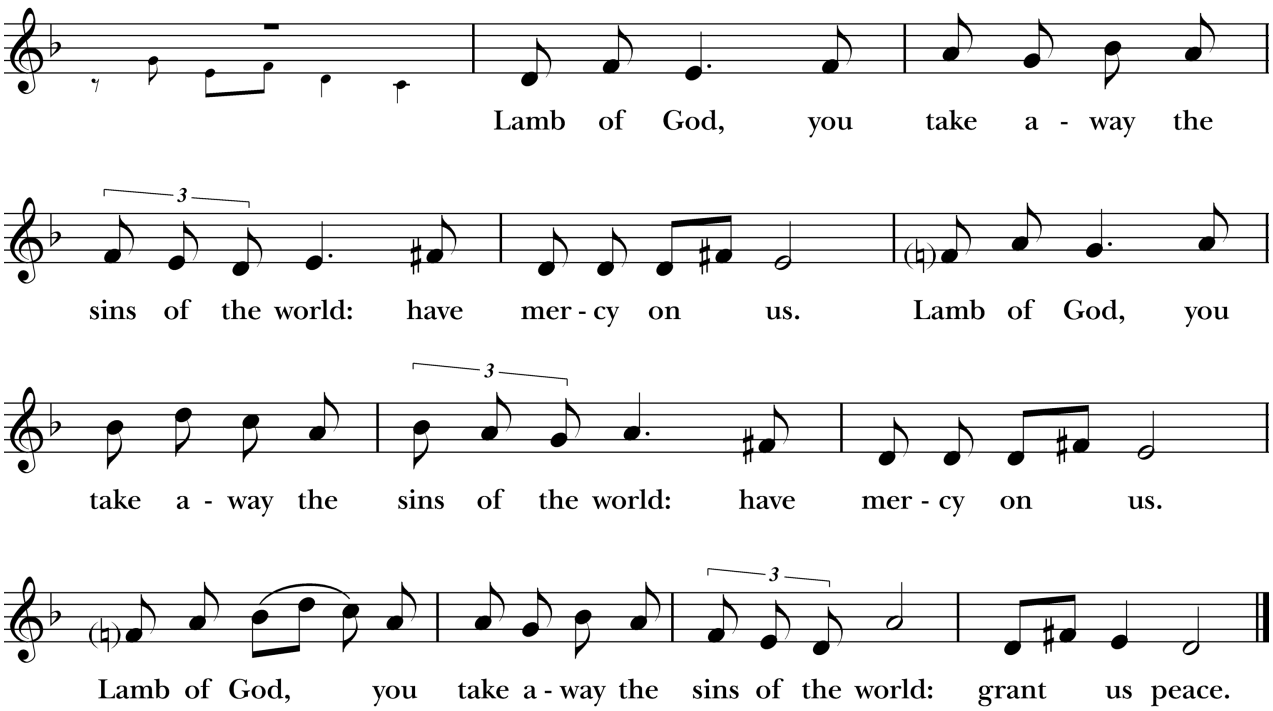
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem S-163



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Communion Anthem *O Lord, how shall I meet you* Johann Cruger (1598-1662)

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn #66 *Come, thou long expected Jesus* STUTTGART

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Magnificat V* *Heinrich Scheidemann (1595-1663)*

Ministers Serving Today:
The Rev. Greg Johnston, Presider
Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director
Louise Ambler Osborn, Vestry Person of the Day
Louise Ambler Osborn and Tommy Bresler, Readers
John Quinn, Intercessor
Sarge Locke, Chalice
Paul Newell and Jane Struss, Ushers
D. Lawrence Ross, Altar Guild
Alice Krapf and Robin Moody, Coffee Hour Hosts

The flowers on the altar were arranged by Robin Moody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John's is once again participating in the **Kennedy Center Holiday Gift Drive**. This year, we'll be purchasing gifts for a family of three children: a 3 year old boy, a 2 year old girl, and a 14 year old girl. You can find the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour!

Please consider making a Christmas flower donation in memory or in honor of loved ones or in thanksgiving for special gifts. Envelopes and donation slips are available at the back of the church and at coffee hour.

We are wrapping up our fall **Stewardship Campaign**. If you plan to submit a pledge for 2027 but haven't done so yet, you can leave a pledge card in the plate today, or can fill out the online pledge form using the QR code or the link in New & Notes.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1: Supper and Carol Singing, 5:45pm

Saturday, December 12: Lessons and Carols, 5pm

Sunday, December 20: Christmas Pageant

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve (4pm service)

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day (10am service)

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
27 Devens Street, Charlestown, MA 02129
617-242-1272 | stjohns02129@gmail.com | www.stjohns02129.org
The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector
Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Matt Hast and Ms. Shannon Fry, Wardens