

---

# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## *The Third Sunday of Advent*

December 14, 2025

8:00 a.m.

---

Welcome to St. Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



*This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership, and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.*

## In the Church Year: Advent

The Christian calendar begins its new year not on January 1, but on the first Sunday of Advent — which is always four Sundays before Christmas (December 25) and the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30). Our word "Advent" derives from the Latin *Adventus*, which means "coming," and originally referred just to the coming of the feast of Christmas. But over time the season of Advent took on a double meaning. Today it refers both to the "first coming" of Jesus Christ in his birth at Christmas and to his "second coming" at the end of time.

It is important to remember that Advent is not just a season in which we recall an event of the past — Jesus' birth — but also a time in which we look to the present and the future. When will Jesus come again? When will we see the kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven? Of course no one knows. And so the more important questions are: What can we do as the Church, Christ's body here on earth, to welcome God's reign of justice and peace today? What can we do as individuals to reorder our lives in the light of God's love? What would it mean to live as a people who believe in Jesus as the Savior of all the earth and who expect him to come again at the fulfillment of time? Each Advent we turn to these questions anew.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

Andy & Zosia Wittleder – December 15

Barb Ferry – December 19

Rene Surgi – December 19

## Entering In

*The following thought by a spiritual author, religious, theologian or one of our clergy is intended to reflect something in today's service. The Practice is intended to offer one practical way of living these reflections.*

"Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life," wrote Simone Weil. Without patience our expectation degenerates into wishful thinking. Patience comes from the word "patior" which means "to suffer." What seems a hindrance becomes a way; what seems an obstacle becomes a door; what seems a misfit becomes a cornerstone. — *Henri Nouwen*

**Practice:** This week when a moment of impatience comes upon you – a hindrance, an obstacle, a misfit – take a moment and see if you can reframe it into a way, a door, or a cornerstone. Share with a spiritual friend your experience of impatience.

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

### The Word of God

#### Prelude

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### The Opening Acclamation

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

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

*Presider* 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.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

#### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider* 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.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## The Lessons

### The Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*Assembly*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm**

Psalm 146

*Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;**

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

The Lord loves the righteous;  
the Lord cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Gospel**

Matthew 11:2-11

*Gospeler*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*Assembly*      **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.”

*Gospeler*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Assembly*

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Adam Spencer

*A period of silence follows the sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;**

and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*Book of Common Prayer, Form I*

- Intercessor* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,  
saying "Lord, have mercy."
- Intercessor* For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of  
God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the  
Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in  
authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For this village of Glencoe, for every city and community, and for  
those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**



*Intercessor* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For Sally Graver  
Sherry Schellenbach  
Aidan Thomson  
Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple  
Sam Weisbard, friend of Fred & Annette Johnston  
Lexi Valasek, mother of a Montessori student  
Charlotte Margolis, baby sister of a Montessori student  
James Green, sibling of a Montessori student  
Are there others?

*Silence*

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Don Martin, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, Elisabeth and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*Assembly* **To thee, O Lord our God.**

## The Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Presider* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*All* **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider* 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.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.*

# The Holy Communion

## The Offertory

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

## The Collection

*Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church, or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.*



## The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Assembly* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Presider* 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,

*All*

**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.**

*Please remain standing or kneel, as you are able.*

*Presider*

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.

*Assembly*     **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*All*     **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.*

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*All* 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 Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please line up at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel. Please assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. Gluten-free host available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* 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**

*Presider*        The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

*Assembly*        **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*Presider*        Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Assembly*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### **Christmas at St. Elisabeth's**

#### **Sunday, December 14**

11:00 a.m. – Christmas Pageant Preparation

3:00 p.m. – Carols by Candlelight at St. Paul's AME Church, 336 Washington Ave,  
Glencoe

#### **Saturday, December 20**

9:00 a.m. – Advent Silent Prayer

#### **Sunday, December 21**

11:00 a.m. – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

#### **Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist with Pageant

9:00 p.m.—Sung Eucharist with Choir

#### **Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. – Eucharist with Carols

**The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**  
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

**Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church**

**Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Caryl Medsker	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Abigail Pribble	<i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>

**2025 Vestry**

Robert Fischer, *Warden*  
Fred Johnston  
Jamie Kim

Carrie Miller-Mygatt,  
*Warden*

Kara Superfine  
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*  
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

**Sunday Schedule**



8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

**Office Hours**

Tuesday -Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.