
ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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

None this week

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.

The Advent cry, "Come, Lord Jesus", is not a cry of desperation, but an assured shout of cosmic hope. —*Richard Rohr*

Practice: What expectations and demands of life can you let go of so that you can be more prepared for the "coming" of Jesus?

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 Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Assembly **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

The Lessons

The Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 122

Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.

I was glad when they said to me, *

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

**To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

**For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Gospeler

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

Assembly

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Gospeler

The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Larry Handwerk

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
Cheryl, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman
Griffin, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman
Doug, brother-in-law of Andrienne Zimmerman
Sam Weisbard, friend of Fred & Annette Johnston
Nicholas & Alice, friends of Tobi Ellis
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, 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

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 – the Choir is off for the summer.
- 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.