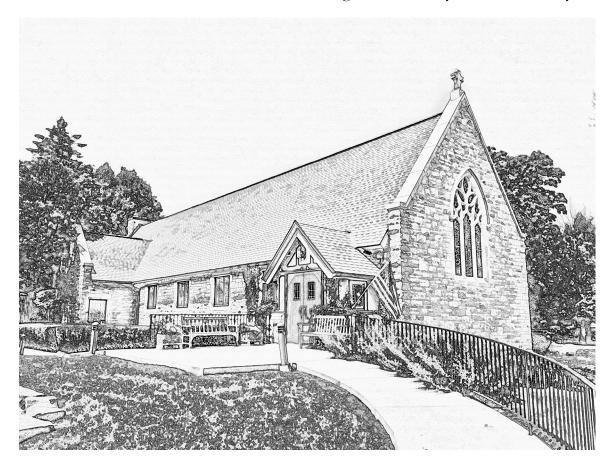
# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Saint 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.

# Today at St. Elisabeth's

8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist

9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour, Sunday Forum, Children's Sunday School

#### **Sunday Forum:**

Each Sunday, we gather after coffee for a discussion on the lessons, music, and sermon from the morning service; with frequent special presentations.

### Pageant Prep Party! Child Stars needed!

Calling all families! Please join us after church **today** to discuss roles, explore costumes, and begin sharing the story of Baby Jesus.

#### Carols by Candlelight

Join our choir and other members of the Glencoe community at St. Paul's AME Church, located at 336 Washington Avenue on **Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m.** 

#### 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 as well as the image are 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 Nauwen* 

**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.



Jesus Heals the Blind and the Lame on the Mountain – James Tissot

# The Holy Eucharist – Rite II The Word of God

#### The Prelude

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

# The Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship

Blessed are you, holy and living One. Presider

For ever and ever. Amen. Assembly

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen Presider

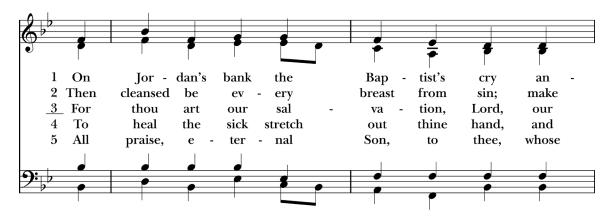
us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you Veronese Sacramentary

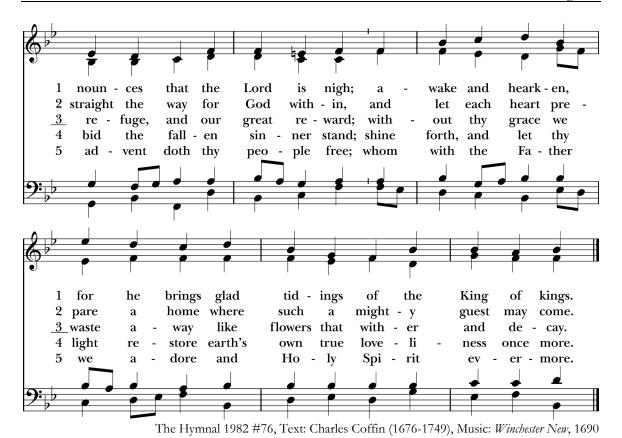
and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever.

Assembly Amen.

# The Hymn

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"





# The Collect of the Day

Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Presider God be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, of prophets ancient and modern, through all such faithful ones you proclaim your unfolding future of joy and life renewed. Strengthen our hearts to trust your Advent promise that one day we will walk fully in the holy way of Christ, in that realm where sorrow and sighing will be no more and our life will be joy in you for ever.

Assembly Amen.

Please 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;

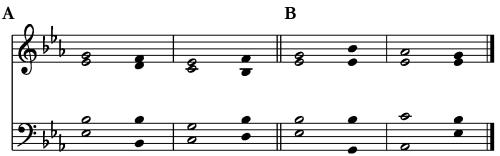
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated for the psalm.

The Psalm Psalm 146



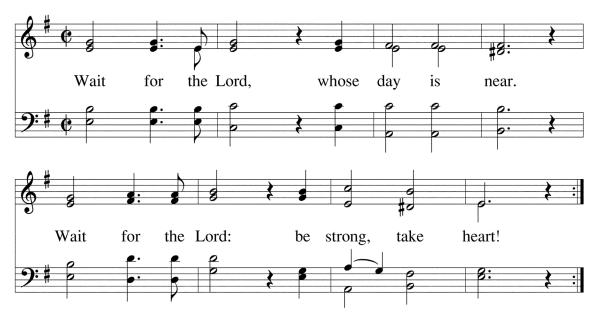
### Assembly

- A Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their <u>help!</u> \* whose hope is in the Lord their <u>God</u>;
- B Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is <u>in them;</u> \* who keeps his promise for <u>ever;</u>
- A Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.
- B The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the <u>blind</u>; \* the Lord lifts up those who are bowed <u>down</u>;
- A The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \*
  he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- B The Lord shall reign for <u>ever</u>, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!
- A Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- B as it was in the beginning, is <u>now</u>, and will be for ever. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

# Sequence Hymn

"Wait for the Lord"



Evangelical Lutheran Worship #262, Text and Music: Taize Community

# The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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

Assembly Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

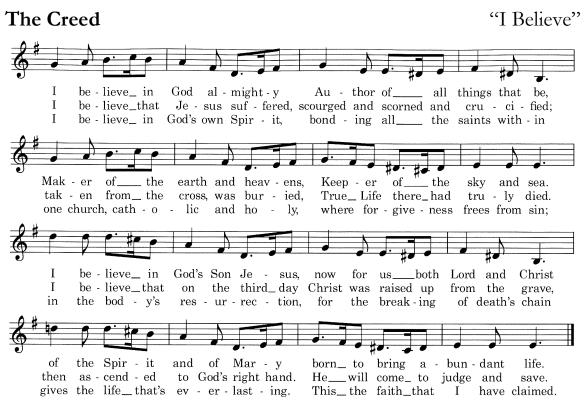
Assembly Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### 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 for the Creed and the Prayers.



# The Prayers of the People

Written by the Rev. Adam Spencer

Intercessor God be with you,
Assembly And also with you.

*Intercessor* Let us pray.

Intercessor Redeemer of the Nations, you made heaven and earth, the seas,

and all that is in them. Reveal your Holy Way to us, to all in leadership, to all who hold public office and to all who work for the common good. Make us righteous, O Lord, guide us to live and speak and act in such ways as give justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger. Through us, bring good news to the poor, lift up those who are bowed down and

frustrate the way of the wicked.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God of hope, you make the wilderness and the dry land glad, you

cause the desert to rejoice and blossom. You keep your promise forever. And so we pray to you today for all your children around the world who lack access to clean water - in places of drought, or pollution, or where an altered climate has changed things for them. Make the burning sand a pool, the thirsty ground springs of water, for you are our salvation, Lord, and our

refuge.

Intercessor God in your mercy,

Assembly Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Christ our Sun, your day is near and we wait patiently for your

appearing. As your Church draws closer to the yearly celebration of Christmas, the splendor of your holy birth at Bethlehem pierces all our gloom. Shine in our hearts and illumine our lives so our lived faith reflects your radiant beams and no night is able to overcome us. In the Evanston Deanery this week, we pray for the Church of St. Andrew's-Pentecost in Evanston and Emeka

their priest. Shield us with your mercy and enfold us with your love. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Intercessor Assembly God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

Intercessor

Jesus our healer, through you in days of old the blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard and the dead were raised. We lift to you in prayer today all who are sick or struggling or in need of your healing grace particularly those we now name, silently or aloud...

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

<u>James</u> Green, sibling of a Montessori student

Are there others?

We bring into your light, Jesus, those who have died, especially Don Martin and those we now name silently or aloud. (*Silence*)

Intercessor Assembly God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

Presider

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Book of Common Prayer

Assembly Amen.

#### The Confession of Sin

Common Worship

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

All

Eternal God, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on 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 Christ be always with you.

Assembly And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the peace of God.

# **Holy Communion**

# The Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in lo

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

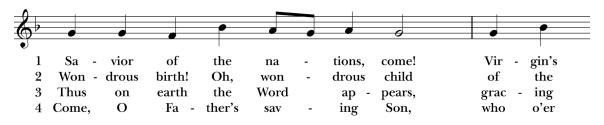
Ephesians 5:2

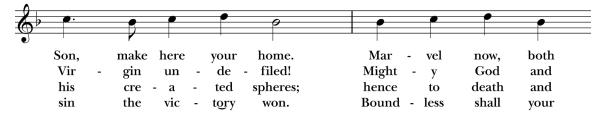
If you are financially able to support the mission of St. Elisabeth's, please put your offering in the collection plate as it is passed or use the QR code to donate online.



# The Offertory Hymn

"Savior of the nations, Come!"



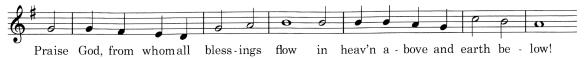




The Hymnal 1982 #54, Text: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397), Music: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, 1524

Please stand as you are able.

### The Doxology





Music: Old 100th

### The Great Thanksgiving

Joining the Angels' Song, Advent 4

Presider God be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Presider

Assembly We lift them up to the Lord.

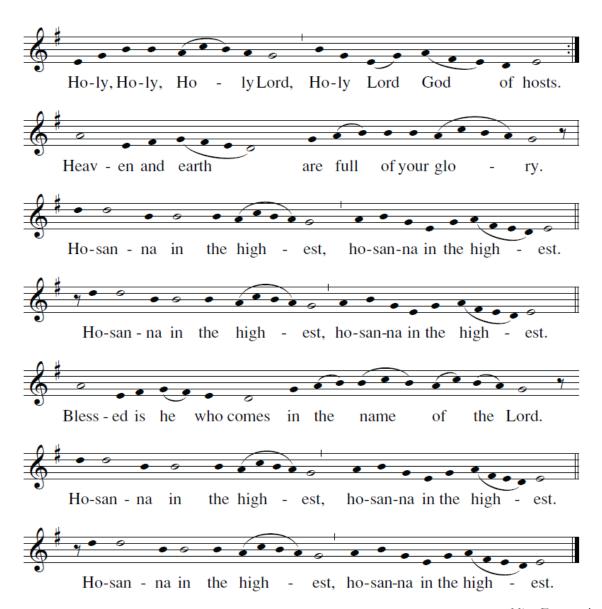
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, O Ancient of Days, for from of old you have called forth life. You brought into being every detail of creation and gave birth to your covenant people.

When the time drew near, you called upon Bethlehem to bear the hope you promised, and summoned Mary to bear your holy child. By your grace the child grew to be the one to bear not only our sins but the sins of the world. In his dying and rising you gave birth to everlasting life for all your children.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we sing your praise and join the unending hymn.



Missa Emmanuel

You are invited to remain standing or to kneel.

Presider

God of Mary, whose womb bore the sacred fruit of our salvation, bring forth from this fruit of the vine your cup of blessing. As we remember around this table your Son's saving passion poured out for us, send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make us bearers of your Christ, your mercy and your hope.

Sanctify this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Jesus our Lord. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Presider Assembly Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Presider

God of holy expectation, let your face shine upon us and your dawn break upon us that we may be saved. Make your church expectant in faith as we labour for what we cannot yet see.

Come and dwell with your people who yearn to be restored, to be forgiven, to belong. Let the warmth of your face shine upon those who seek the peace long promised for Bethlehem, for Jerusalem and for all your waiting world.

Bring us, with all the saints who have looked for your coming, to the day when we and all your children shall celebrate and leap for joy in your holy presence, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Assembly Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

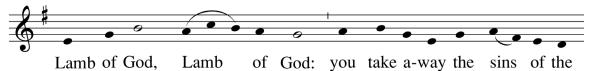
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

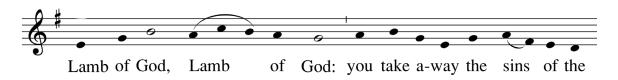
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.









Music: Missa Emmanuel, adapt., © 2012, GIA Publications, Inc.

Missa Emmanuel

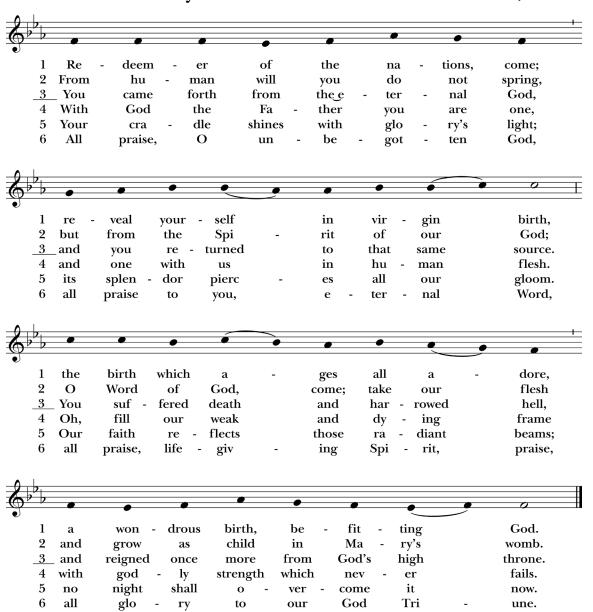
### The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

### The Communion Hymn

"Redeemer of the nations, come"



The Hymnal 1982 #55,

Text: Ambrose of Milan (340-397), Music: Veni Redemptor gentium, Plainsong

# The Post Communion Prayer

Common Worship

Presider Let us pray.

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body

and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your

praise and glory. Amen.

Please be seated for the announcements.

#### **Announcements**

# Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travelers

Those traveling and those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries are invited to come forward for a blessing.

### The Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

Please stand as you are able.

Presider God be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

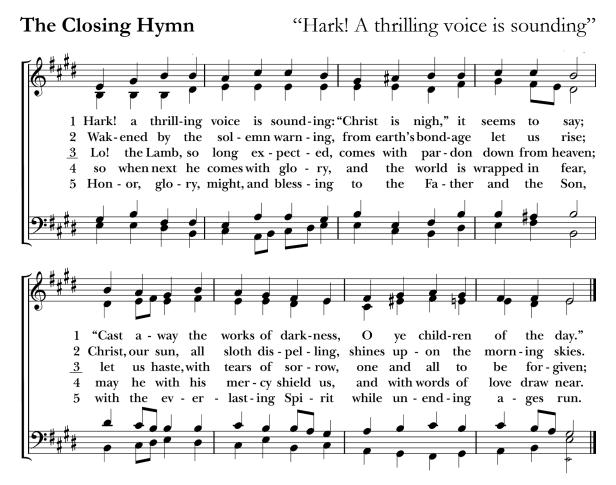
Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the

darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God

Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,

and remain with you always.

Assembly Amen.



The Hymnal 1982 #59, Text: Latin, 6th century, Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

#### The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

#### The Postlude

#### This Week at St. Elisabeth's

Monday, December 15

8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Thursday, December 18

1:30 p.m. – Bible Study 7:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 20

8:00 a.m. – Women's Al-Anon Meeting 9:00 a.m. – Advent Silent Prayer 5:00 p.m. – AA Meeting Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

#### Christmas at St. Elisabeth

### **Advent Silent Prayer**

Advent is often thought of, in Christian theology, as a season of *waiting*. Waiting for what St. Bernard of Clairvaux called the three "comings" of Christ...at Christmas, at the end of all things, and into our lives every day. Join Adam for a Saturday morning of silent prayer on **Saturday, December 20, from 9-10am**, as we wait on the presence of the Lord together. Adam will briefly teach on techniques for intentional, prayerful silence before we enter into a period of shared silence together.

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsal!

After church on **Sunday, December 21,** we will conduct a quick rehearsal in the sanctuary to get ready for our magical day. Any questions regarding the pageant please talk to Carrie at 202-714-7741 or Abigail after church.

#### **Christmas Services**

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

9:00 p.m. – Sung Eucharist with Choir

**Christmas Day** 10:00 a.m. – Eucharist with Carols

# **Assisting Today**

Reading Susan Whipple
Prayers Larry Whipple
Altar Guild Polly Baur
Usher Phil Miller

Coffee Hour Susan & Larry Whipple

# The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Bishop

# Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Adam Spencer Rector

The Rev. Larry Handwerk Priest Associate

Walter Aldrich Director of Music

Caryl Medsker Director of Administration
Abigail Pribble Director of Children's Formation

### **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.

We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit and a commitment to radiate God's love within and beyond our red doors.