

# The Third Sunday of Advent

## All Saints Parish

December 14, 2025

8am



### The Liturgy of the Word

**Welcome** The Venerable Jennifer McKenzie

*Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

On this third Sunday of Advent we join with the writers of Scripture to sing of hope and healing. With our hearts we praise the Lord, and we are glad because of God our Savior. God's greatness was shown in Christ and is still active in the world. The child of Mary brought a message of hope and healing that continues as we follow Christ's words and actions.

Today we relight the first and second candles on our Advent wreath. (*The first and second candles are relit*) The light of these burning candles reminds us that our waiting and dreaming can make a positive difference in our world. The flame of this third candle reminds that God's deepest desire for us is for our healing and reconciliation (*the third candle is lit*) and that God calls us to be part of the healing of the world.

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent prayer*

*Celebrant* We wait in the darkness, O God, for the coming of your Christ

*People* A light no darkness can overcome

*Celebrant* We long, O God, for the coming of your reign

*People* Let us walk in the light of your promise

*Celebrant* Let us pray together, saying:

*All* Gracious God, through your Spirit you spoke to prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit you spoke to Mary and Joseph, and they responded and waited for their child to be born. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us that we may feel your presence and know your will in our Advent waiting. *Amen*

**Trisagion** (*recite three times*)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*The celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you

*Celebrant* Let us pray

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. *Amen*

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35:1-10**

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.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 146:4-9** (*Please read responsively by whole verse. The Lector will begin.*)

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;  
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.  
7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
9 The LORD shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

### **The Epistle**

#### **A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent prayer*

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-11**

*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.”

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

## **The Sermon** The Ven. Jennifer McKenzie

*As you are able, please stand, or adopt a posture of reverent praise*

## **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.**

## The Prayers of the People

*written by Emily Williams Guffrey*

Creator of the stars of night, which keep watch when our own faith is dim:  
Awaken hope and kindle our longing for your return.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free:  
Release us from our sins and fears, that we may live in your light and truth.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

O come, Desire of nations: bind in one the hearts of humankind.  
Dissolve our sad divisions, and strengthen us to work for peace.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Comfort all who sit in the darkness of illness, grief, or distress,  
especially those we now name:  
*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, names of those in need)*  
Speak to them your peace, which passes all understanding.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Welcome into your glory those we love but see no longer,  
especially those we now name:  
*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, names of those who have died)*  
May light perpetual shine upon them, bright as sun and moon together.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

With the angels who announce your coming with shouts of joy,  
let us name the blessings of our lives:  
*(all are invited to offer, aloud or silently, prayers of thanksgiving)*  
You have lifted up our lowliness in many marvelous ways.  
*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Celebrant* Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust  
in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

## Confession of Sin

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*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.

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*Amen.*

## The Peace

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

*People* And also with you.

## Announcements

## The Offertory

*As the gifts of bread, wine and money are carried forward to the altar, the congregation stands.*

# The Holy Eucharist

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says*

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.

*Then 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.

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*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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 poured out for you and for all 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 for ever. AMEN.

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

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. 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, the power, and the glory forever 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

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

These are the gifts of God and we are the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please be seated. If you wish to accept the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct you to the altar rail.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE</b> <b>All are welcome to receive Holy Communion here.</b></p>
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Please note that the wine we use in communion contains alcohol. If you prefer, you are welcome to receive communion in one kind – that is, bread only. There are also gluten-free wafers available upon request. If you would prefer a blessing in lieu of communion, please indicate by folding your arms across your chest.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people, saying:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray

*As you are able, please stand or adopt a posture of reverent praise*  
*Celebrant and People*

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

## **Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

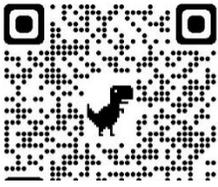
May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*

**Dismissal**    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.





allsaints1692.org

# All Saints Parish

An Episcopal Community Serving Calvert County & the World

## All Saints Staff

The Rev. Chip Tucker, Deacon

The Rev. Lisa Siciliano, Regional Deacon

The Rev. Margaret Van Auken, Deacon Emeritus

Tamara Timmermann, Parish Administrator [allsaints1692@allsaints1692.org](mailto:allsaints1692@allsaints1692.org)

Deborah Watson, Music Director [dewatson94@comcast.net](mailto:dewatson94@comcast.net)

Church Office: 410-257-6306 Mailing address: P.O. Box 40, Sunderland, MD 20689

### Officers and Vestry

Adriane Hope Sayles, Senior Warden	301-467-1467
Ken McKenzie, Junior Warden	703-675-4476
Filo Blake, Property Warden	443-684-1536
Barbara Brown, Prayer Warden	610-869-4456
Steven Watson, Treasurer	301-801-0961

### Vestry

Katlin Bagdovitz (2028)	410-474-5508	David Lippe (2027)	202-365-3924
Barbara Buck (2027)	540-239-5928	Elizabeth Aune (2028)	925-953-3061
Jill Dowell (2026)	443-610-5294	Julia Schardt (2027)	209-986-3029
Eileen Everhart (2028)	941-284-2570	Deb Shupe (2026)	410-231-8150
Deborah Watson (2026)		301-801-0960	

(Note: The years given above reflect the anticipated last full calendar year of service by the Elected Vestry Person; however, Vestry persons' terms continue until the Annual Parish Meeting of the following year when successors are elected.)

### All Saints Commissions and Committees

#### Worship & Music Commission

Deb Watson 301-801-0960

#### Parish Family Commission

Malane Silver 443-624-4691

#### Christian Formation

Ben Reist 240-721-0529

#### ECW Christmas Market

Elizabeth Aune & Eileen Everhart

#### Outreach Commission

Patti At Lee 202-669-5594

#### Finance Commission

Ken McKenzie 703-675-4476

#### Planned Giving Board

Dale Everhart 941-284-6352

#### Connections Commission

Deb Shupe 410-231-8150

#### Property Committee

Glenn Iona 443-684-1353

#### Episcopal Church Women

Jill Dowell 443-610-5294

#### Calvert Arts Festival

Pat Lineberry 907-654-4655

#### Cemetery Committee

Bryan Dowell 410-257-5449

#### Diocesan Convention Delegate:

Kip At Lee (2026)

*Alternate Delegate: Deborah Watson (2026)*

#### Calvert Concept for Reconciliation and Housing

Chair, Kip At Lee (410) 474-3008

**If you are new to All Saints, welcome! We're glad you're here!**

Please fill out a leaflet found on the back of the pew and place it in the Offering plate, or hand it to an usher

**Ushers 8am:** Josh Westlund, Abigail Peterson, Julie Schardt & Nate Pope

**10:30am:** Charles Sadler, Ken McKenzie, Eric Jenkins & Joe Endy

**Worship Leaders 8am:** Barbara Brown & Kip At Lee **10:30am:** Cheryl Thompson, Pat Lineberry & Deb Watson

**Altar Servers: 8am** Patti At Lee **10:30am** Dale Everhart

During the 10:30 service a staffed Nursery for young children is available in the Parish Hall.

\*RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN THE PARISH HALL\*