



Third Sunday of Advent: Year A

The Holy Eucharist
December 14, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Preacher:
The Rev. Lauren R. Holder

Celebrant:
The Rev. Grace M. Rigby



**St. Martin's
in-the-Field**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Serving Severna Park since 1955

Welcome to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

*Our worship services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP);
all are invited to participate fully in our worship of God this morning.*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I - 8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

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THE HOLY COMMUNION

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DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All may receive the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist or a blessing. Stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available on the far left of the altar rail. Receive the wine either by drinking from the common cup or by touching the wafer lightly to the wine in the smaller intinction chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER	BCP p. 339
BLESSING	
DISMISSAL	

You're invited for fellowship and refreshments in the Narthex following our worship this morning.

Welcome to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

*Our worship services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Enriching Our Worship, The Hymnal 1982 (H) and Lift Every Voice and Sing II (L). We invite you to participate fully in our worship service, by both singing joyfully and with spoken responses which appear in **bold**. We livestream our 10:00 a.m. service*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II - 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Robert Lind

WELCOME

All stand and sing.

OPENING HYMN: *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Gloria*

H 76

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Choir leads call and response.

H S 88

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

FIRST READING

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 pray responsively by whole verse.

- 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!**

SECOND READING

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.**

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

As we sing the Sequence Hymn, children who wish to attend Children's Chapel are invited to gather in the back of the church with the Children's Chapel adult leaders. Children's Chapel is located in the music room. The children will return during the Peace.

All stand and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

H 56, v. 5 & 6

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

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

SERMON

The Rev. Lauren R. Holder

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—FORM IV

BCP p. 388

In our parish family prayers are requested for: Rosemary, Gail, Brett, Katie, Lew, Karen, Suzanne, Lisa, Greg, Bruce, David, Joey, Michele, Kerry, Carter, Amalia, Edmund, Kip, Wilma, Merla, Mike, the Carman family, Kevin, Sarah, Jared, Bill, Jax, Brody, Matt, and Kyle.
The altar flowers this week are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Frank Hilton.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GIVING

The Offertory is when we make a sacred gift to God as part of our worship. You can leave a donation in the plate being passed by the ushers or give online by scanning the QR code or via our website at <https://stmartinsinthefield.com/giving/> Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Martin's-in-the-Field.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Mary Did You Know?*

arr. Aaron Carman
Hand bell Choir

All stand and sing.

PRESENTATION HYMN: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation*

H 390, v. 3

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

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:

SANCTUS

All sing.

H S 129

**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.**

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.

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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father, **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, 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,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

All sing.

FRACTION ANTHEM: *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

H 324, v. 1

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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The Congregation joins in the singing of the Communion Hymn.

COMMUNION HYMNS: *Savior of the nations, come!*

H 54

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

H 68

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

All sing.

CLOSING HYMN: *There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

H 75

DISMISSAL

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

After the dismissal, you may remain seated for the postlude or exit to the Narthex.

POSTLUDE: *Trumpet tune on "Venez Divin Messie"*

David Lastky

You're invited for fellowship and refreshments in the Narthex following our worship this morning.

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Lauren R. Holder, Rector, rector@stmartinsinthe field.org

The Rev. Grace M. Rigby, Associate Rector and Chaplain, associate@stmartinsinthe field.org

Dr. HyeSung Hwang, Director of Music Ministries, music@stmartinsinthe field.org

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To make a Christmas Flower dedication or memorial for a loved one please complete this form, scan the QR code or visit <https://stmartinsinthe field.com/parish-life/>
DEADLINE is Sunday, December 21. A \$35 minimum donation is requested.



Requested by: _____

Contact E-mail / Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

And/Or

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Other Message: _____