



## Fourth Sunday of Advent: Year A

The Holy Eucharist  
December 21, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Preacher:  
The Rev. Grace M. Rigby

Celebrant:  
The Rev. Lauren R. Holder



**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

<b>OPENING ACCLAMATION</b>	BCP p. 323
<b>COLLECT FOR PURITY</b>	BCP p. 323
<b>KYRIE</b>	BCP p. 324
<b>COLLECT OF THE DAY</b>	BCP p. 160
<b>FIRST READING</b>	See p. 3 of bulletin
<b>PSALM</b>	See p. 3 of bulletin
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<b>SERMON</b>	The Rev. Grace M. Rigby
<b>NICENE CREED</b>	BCP p. 326
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### THE HOLY COMMUNION

<b>OFFERTORY SENTENCE</b>	BCP p. 343
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<b>THE LORD'S PRAYER</b>	BCP p. 336
<b>FRACTION</b>	

#### 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.*

<b>POST COMMUNION PRAYER</b>	BCP p. 339
<b>BLESSING</b>	
<b>DISMISSAL</b>	

*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:** *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*

Johannes Brahms arr. John E. West

**WELCOME**

*All stand and sing.*

**OPENING HYMN:** *Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes*

H 72

**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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Please pray responsively by whole verse.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>17</sup> And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

<sup>18</sup> **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. 7 & 8

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Grace M. Rigby

## 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.*



**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 HYMN:** *Creator of the stars of night*

H 60

#### 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.**

**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:** *Blest be the King*

H 74

**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:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Dan Coates  
Cynthia Shimp-Day

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

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CLERGY AND STAFF

**The Rev. Lauren R. Holder, Rector**, [rector@stmartinsinthefield.org](mailto:rector@stmartinsinthefield.org)

**The Rev. Grace M. Rigby, Associate Rector and Chaplain**, [associate@stmartinsinthefield.org](mailto:associate@stmartinsinthefield.org)

**Dr. HyeSung Hwang, Director of Music Ministries**, [music@stmartinsinthefield.org](mailto:music@stmartinsinthefield.org)

**Amber Kaltz, Director of Communications**, [communications@stmartinsinthefield.org](mailto:communications@stmartinsinthefield.org)

**Jory Bender, Director of Finance**, [treasurer@stmartinsinthefield.org](mailto:treasurer@stmartinsinthefield.org)

**Greg Carrick, Facilities Manager**, [gcarrick@stmartinsmd.org](mailto:gcarrick@stmartinsmd.org)

**Reita Turro, Nursery Director**

375 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD 21146 | 410-647-6248

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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://stmartinsinthefield.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: \_\_\_\_\_