



**26 Washington Street**

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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**7:30 am - Morning Prayer**

**22 December 2019**  
**8:00 am - Holy Eucharist**

**10:00 am - Sung Eucharist**

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*Please switch off all cellular telephones and other electronic devices before the Liturgy begins. Also, kindly refrain from audible conversation to respect those wishing to pray and listen to the organ prelude. Thank you.*

**ORGAN - Pastorate**

Theodor Kullak (1818-1882)

### **THE ENTRANCE RITE**

**AT THE PROCESSION: HYMN 56 - *Veni veni Emmanuel***

### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen***

### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Prayer Book, page 323*

### **KYRIE ELEISON**

*at 10:00 a.m. - Messe O Magnum Mysterium*

*Prayer Book, page 324*  
Tomas Victoria (1548-1611)

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON - *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

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." (7:10-16)

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### GRADUAL - *Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Words: *Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18*

Music: Anglican Chant, Henry Wolf Davies (1869-1941)

### THE SECOND LESSON - *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans*

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. (1:1-7)

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**SEQUENCE: HYMN 267 - St. George**

*The people stand and turn to face the Book of Gospels*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
*People Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

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. (1:18-25)

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

**THE SERMON**

Dean Vang

**THE NICENE CREED**

*Prayer Book, page 327*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Celebrant* My sisters and brothers, with Mary and Joseph we know that all things are possible with God, and so we confidently ask the Lord to hear our prayers.

*Assisting Priest* That the servants of Jesus Christ will receive the Lord's blessing in living the Gospel. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Francis, the Bishop of Rome; Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; William, our Diocesan; Daniel, our Bishop retired, and Marshall and Paul, our Priests.

Let us pray to the Lord:

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That local, state, and national officials will receive the Lord's blessing in doing justice for all in need,

Let us pray to the Lord:

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That pregnant women will receive the Lord's blessing in the birth of their children,

Let us pray to the Lord:

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For babies about to be born, that the Lord's glad tidings will bring them to the fullness of their humanity,

Let us pray to the Lord:  
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That those facing decisions about their future will receive the Lord's blessing in seeking God's will,  
Let us pray to the Lord:  
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

That we who prepare to celebrate Christmas will receive the Lord's blessing in serving others,  
Let us pray to the Lord:  
Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who have died, will receive the Lord's blessing in living with God for ever,  
Let us pray to the Lord:  
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Celebrant* God of Mary and Joseph, and our God, we ask you to answer these prayers, for we pray only that your will be done in us and through us. Let your blessing be powerfully present in every word we speak and in every action we perform for your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

*Celebrant and People*

**Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the door of mercy through which we pass day by day. Bless this parish and its leaders as we expand to become a compassionate community among our neighbors. May the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and the work of our hands enable Mercy House to be a home where those in need may live together in the bond of peace and love; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Assisting Priest* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an Absolution.*

### **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* ***And with thy spirit.***

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### ANTHEM - *I Sing of a Maiden*

I sing of maiden That is makeless  
King of all kings To her son she ches.  
He came all so still Where His mother was,  
As dew in April That falleth on the grass.  
He came all so still To His mother's bower,  
As dew in April That falleth on the flower.  
He came all so still Where His mother lay,  
As dew in April That falleth on the spray.  
Mother and maiden Was never none but she:  
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Words: Traditional  
Music: Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)

### HYMN 60 - *Conditorm alme siderum*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *Eucharistic Prayer I***

**Prayer Book, page 333**

### PROPER PREFACE OF ADVENT

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.

**SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT - *Hymnal S114***

***Prayer Book, page 341***

**OUR FATHER**

***Prayer Book, page 336***

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: AGNUS DEI - *Hymnal S158***

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

***Prayer Book, page 337***

### MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who are baptized are invited to receive the Body & Blood of Christ.*

### MOTET - *O Magnum Mysterium*

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent  
Dominum natum,  
jacentem in præsepio.

*O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see  
the new-born Lord,  
lying in a manger.*

Beata Virgo,  
cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.  
Alleluia.

*Blessed is the Virgin  
whose womb was worthy  
to bear Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia.*

Words: *Luke 1:42-43*  
Music: Tomas Victoria (1548-1611)

## THE CONCLUDING RITE

### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Prayer Book, page 339*

### 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.*

### DISMISSAL

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

### HYMN 436 - *Truro*

### ORGAN - *Improvisato*

*Arthur Bird (1856-1923)*

## WORSHIPING THIS MORNING

We welcome all visitors to Bethesda. Please identify yourself to the clergy and sign the Register in the Narthex, located next to the vestibule door.

Large print copies of the service leaflet are available. An usher would be happy to assist you. A wheelchair, located near the handicap lift in the vestibule, is available to those who require it.

Please join us for REFRESHMENTS in the Narthex, immediately following the ten o'clock liturgy.

## ASSISTING AT OUR LITURGIES TODAY

|                                    | 8:00am         | 10:00am           |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i>                   | Dean Vang      | Dean Vang         |
| <i>Assisting Priest</i>            |                | Father Evans      |
| <i>Lay Eucharistic Minister[s]</i> | Robert Bullock | Robert Bullock    |
|                                    |                | Steven Rucker     |
| <i>Lay Eucharistic Visitor</i>     |                | Christopher Lyons |
| <i>Lectors</i>                     | Bryce Dittrich | Genna Henderson   |
|                                    |                | John Van der Veer |
| <i>Altar Guild</i>                 | Pamela Houde   | Anne Van Acker    |

*Bell Ringers*  
*Ushers*

Beth & Tom Moeller  
Mark Anspach  
Kathleen Anspach  
Craig Walton  
Karen Walton  
Diane Robinson  
Mark Claverie

*Hospitality*

## NOTICES

In our INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CHURCH today, we pray for  
*Anglican Communion* Christians in other denominations and the work of the  
Ecumenical Movement  
*Diocese of Albany* The Community of Saint Mary  
*Our Parish* Our Preparations for the Christmas Feast

THE DECORATION OF THE CHURCH will take place immediately following the Sung Eucharist.

A basket in the vestibule awaits your contributions of hygiene products to Economic Opportunity Council (EOC). These are taken monthly to assist those in need. Your assistance in gratefully appreciated.

We invite those who wish to share a ministry of hospitality [beverages and snacks] after the ten o'clock liturgy to sign-up on the designated list, at the narthex lectern. Your assistance with Bethesda's hospitality is very much appreciated.

A HISTORY OF BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH: WORSHIP AND HEALING IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK, a beautiful hardcover book, traces the fascinating history of Bethesda and its significance to Saratoga Springs and New York from its founding in 1830 to the present. To order your own copy or a gift, go to <http://bethesdachurch.org/order-a-history-of-bethesda> or call 518-584-5980.

Those who PLEDGE using a CREDIT CARD: Please advise your credit card company of the change of address for Bethesda's Parish Office: 96 Ballston Road, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866. Using our former Washington Street address will cause delay in your transfer of funds.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM Bethesda Episcopal Church is a participant of AmazonSmile. When you are ready to make a purchase use this web address: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364477> and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Bethesda.

Bethesda Episcopal Church is a participant of PAYPAL! You can make your gift to Bethesda by going to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and choosing [bethesdaepiscopalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethesdaepiscopalchurch@gmail.com) as the payee.

NAMETAG printing is ongoing. This is a way to get to know our fellow parishioners. If you do not have a nametag but would like one, please speak to Pam Houde. We would like to thank Pam for all of her efforts in getting these to those who want them, and also Gordon Boyd for sponsoring this effort. Remember to place your nametag in the basket in the back of the church as you leave.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**  
*December 23-29*

|   |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday<br><i>Advent Weekday</i>                   |                                       |   |
| Tuesday<br><i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>                   | 4:00 p.m.<br>10:00 p.m.<br>10:30 p.m. | Family Eucharist with the Blessing of the Creche, <i>High Altar</i><br>Musiof the Nativity<br>Solemn Eucharist with the Great Procession, <i>High Altar</i> |
| Wednesday<br><i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>                 | 8:30 a.m.<br>9:00a.m.                 | Morning Prayer. <i>Transept Altar</i><br>Holy Eucharist with Hymns, <i>High Altar</i>   |
| Thursday<br><i>SAINT STEPHEN</i>                  |                                       |   |
| Friday<br><i>SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST</i>        |                                       |   |
| Saturday<br><i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i>             |                                       |   |
| Sunday<br><i>THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</i> | 7:30 a.m.<br>8:00 a.m.<br>10:00 a.m.  | Morning Prayer, <i>Transept Altar</i><br>Holy Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i><br>SUNG Eucharist, <i>High Altar</i><br>Refreshments, <i>The Narthex</i>         |

The PARISH OFFICES are open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. *Monday, Tuesday & Thursday*, 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. *Wednesday* and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on *Friday*.

**THE PARISH STAFF**

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*  
The Reverend Paul F. Evans, *Assisting Priest*  
Mrs. Barbara Latzko, *Parish Administrative Assistant*  
Mr. Farrell Goehring, *Organist/Director of Music*  
Dr. Kathleen Slezak, *Choral Director*  
Mr. Robert E. Bullock, *Verger*

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