

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Lewisville, Texas

To be a home where Love of God and Neighbor grows.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I DECEMBER 14, 2025

For Your Children

- Nursery: Our staffed Nursery is available to children up to four years old from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Angel Buddy Bags: Angel Buddy Bags with activities are in the Narthex for children ages 5-7 years.
- Children's Chapel: Children's Chapel is offered during the school year at the 11:00 a.m. service for children ages 4-7 years.

Christian Formation

- Christian Formation is offered during the school year for ages four to adult from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. To locate a class, please see an Usher.

Receiving Communion in the Episcopal Church

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you. If you desire to receive communion on this occasion and are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we invite you to do so. If you would like a blessing, but not communion, please come forward and cross your arms. If you have trouble kneeling, please remain standing at the altar rail. If you have trouble walking, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to your seat. Please feel free to consult on this matter with the clergy.

GLUTEN INTOLERANT - Please let an Usher know if you are gluten intolerant, and they will arrange to have gluten free wafer and wine available to you at the altar rail.

- **Large print and Spanish prayer books** are available. Please see the ushers if you would like one.
- **Hearing Assistance** devices are available from our ushers before services.
- **Silence Electronic Devices**
Please make sure all electronic devices are on SILENT before the worship service begins.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

Prelude

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Gerald Near

Lighting of 3rd Candle in Advent Wreath

Prayer for lighting Advent Wreath

Officiant and People

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

Officiant

Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Processional Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Hymnal 59

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

Collect for Purity

Kyrie

Hymnal S88

Collect of the Day

BCP 160

The Old Testament

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 Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9

- 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

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.

Sequence Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, vs. 1-3

Hymnal 76

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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.”

Homily

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People

Rev. Carolyn Bartkus

BCP 326

BCP 328

The Leader and People pray responsively

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially Alan, Anne, Betsy, Beth, Bill, Bill, Chad, Connie, Don, Emilia, Eric, Frank, Gabe and Angel, Gail, Janey, Jayice, Jean, Jerry, Jessica, Jim, J’Lane, Joan, John, Justin, Kallie, Karen, Keegan, Laura, Levi, Lori, Marcelle, Margaret, Marian, Melissa,

Nancy, Nicia, Pam, Paul, Penny, Polly, Ray, Regan, Rick, Robert, Ron, Sam, Sandra, Terry, Walter, Wayne, and Zoey.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

We ask you to watch over those in the service of our country...Alton, Andrew, Brandon, Charles, Cody, Devin, Gabe, Grady, Hannah, Houston, Jaden, Juston, Kyle, Laney, Liam, Nyah, Owen, Rachel, Richard, Robert, Tony, and Will.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week... Ryan Ahearn, Bradley Babb, Andy Henderson, Elaine LeBlanc, Jose Morales, Cyprus Nicholson, Dan Peel, and Michael Price.

We pray for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week...

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicano do Brasil.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, we pray for Anglicans for Life and the Racial Reconciliation Commission.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Confession

BCP 331

The Peace

BCP 332

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Birthday Prayer:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he/she* begins another year. Grant that *he/she* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Announcements

Offertory 8:30

Gabriel's Message

Michael Bedford

Offertory 11:00

People in Darkness Are Looking for Light

Youth Choir

Music of Taizé

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, Be strong take heart. (2x)*

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist Prayer 1)		BCP 333
Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord</i>	BCP 324/Hymnal S114
Great Amen		Hymnal S146
The Lord's Prayer		BCP 337
The Breaking of the Bread		BCP 337
Fraction Anthem		
Agnus Dei		BCP 337/Hymnal S158
Prayer of Humble Access		
Communion		
Communion	<i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i>	Youth Choir
Prayer after Communion		BCP 339
Lay Eucharistic Visitor Prayer		
	<i>When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent from the table to take Communion to those who are home-bound or hospitalized, the following prayer will be said:</i>	
Celebrant:	In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.	
People:	We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen	
The Blessing		
Closing Hymn	<i>Rejoice! Rejoice Believers</i>	Hymnal 68
Dismissal		BCP 339
Postlude	<i>Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding</i>	Arr. Raymond H. Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blue Christmas Service — **Today at 3:00 p.m.** in the Oratory Chapel. This is a special service of prayer and song for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones during the Christmas season.

Lewisville Civic Chorale presents “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*” on **Sunday, December 14th** at 4:00 p.m. Join us for a concert of American holiday favorites including music from holiday TV specials and other familiar tunes. This concert is sure to get you in the holiday spirit!

MES Christmas Book Fair: will be available **December 14th — 19th.**

Sunday, Dec. 14 – 8 AM to 1 PM.

Monday – Thursday, Dec. 15-18 before school and 8-9 AM, shopping between 10:30-2 PM.

Friday, Dec. 19 8-10:50 AM, 12-1 PM.

Advent Devotion books for individuals and families are available in the Narthex.

2026 Church Calendars are available and can be found in the Narthex.

Altar Flowers are paused for the season of Advent. However, 8 altar trees can be sponsored for \$50 each. The Poinsettia form is included in the bulletin.

Adult Christian Formation: “Singing the Story” (Advent & January)

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 a.m., Oratory Chapel

Advent: “Singing the Story”

Through Advent, we’ll prepare for the coming of Christ by praying and studying through beloved hymns: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus, The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, and God rest you merry, gentlemen*. We’ll use John Birch’s *Singing the Story: An Advent Bible Study* to explore how these hymns echo Scripture and shape our hope.

In January we will begin a study on how the Church discerned the lines between orthodox Christianity and heresy, and how the councils and creeds responded to key questions of faith. We’ll use Justin S. Holcomb’s companion volumes—*Know the Heretics* (first) and *Know the Councils and Creeds*—as our guides. Books: Available on

Amazon in paperback or Kindle. If you need assistance obtaining a book, please speak with Mtr. Carolyn—she'll help you get a paperback copy. All are welcome to join us to learn and grow in faith together.

Tuesday Night Zoom Prayer (Open to All!)

The Daughters of the King hosts a simple, welcoming prayer gathering every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. Connect with us on Tuesday nights by scanning the QR code.



Christmas Eve – All children are invited to attend the 5:00 o'clock service, where we'll be setting up the creche to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Children's Service

Christmas Eve 9:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
602 North Old Orchard Lane
Lewisville, Texas 75077
www.annunciationlewisville.org
972-221-3531
churchoffice@annunciationlewisville.org