

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
St. Louis, Missouri
Sunday, December 14, 2025
5:00 p.m.

About this Service

THIS ADVENT SERVICE is closely modeled on a service held at St. John's College, Cambridge since 1956. This Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent has been held annually at St. Peter's since 2016. The Mander organ of St. Peter's, built in 2001, was inspired, in part, by a Mander organ at St. John's, which was built in 1994.

This service is in four sections: 1) the Message of Advent, 2) the Word of God, 3) the Prophetic Call, and 4) the Christ-Bearer. The pattern of this service reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer "Thy Kingdom come" is finally and fully answered.

This year is the 125th anniversary of the birth of American composer Aaron Copland (1900–1990). His motet "Help us, O Lord" is sung after the Second Lesson. Another American composer, Alan Hovhaness (1911–2000), died 25 years ago this year. His anthem "Watchman, tell us of the night" is sung before the Fifth Lesson. This year is also the 500th anniversary of the birth of Italian composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594). His five-voice motet "Fuit homo missus a Deo" is sung after the Fifth Lesson.

*A portion of this description is adapted from the order of service at St. John's College, Cambridge.
The cover art is the Cestello Annunciation by Sandro Botticelli (c. 1445–1510).*

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

On the Third Sunday of Advent

Music Before the Service

Played by David Sinden

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
(*Savior of the Nations, come; Hymn 54*)

J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660

Bach

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Bach

Played by Joseph Arndt

Ave Maria von Arcadelt

Franz Liszt
(1811–1886)

Rorate caeli

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921–1968)

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Choir sings the Advent Prose from the Narthex.

ADVENT PROSE

DROP DOWN YE HEAVENS from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;
My salvation shall not tarry.
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions.
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.
Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

RORATE CAELI
Words: *Isaiah 45:8*
Music: *Judith Weir (b. 1954)*

The People stand.

HYMN 56: "O come, O come, Emmanuel"



Choir O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Choir O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

All O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Treble voices O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty pow'r to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

All Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lower voices O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

All Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Treble voices O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

All Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lower voices O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.

All Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

All O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: *Latin, c. 9th century, version from The Hymnal 1940*

Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

Melody “*adapted from a French Missal*”

by Thomas Helmore (1811–1890)

descant by David Hill (b. 1957)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

The Officiant says

BELOVED IN CHRIST, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

People and Officiant

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.

Officiant The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

People Amen.

The People sit.

ANTHEM

O RADIANT DAWN, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

Words: *Magnificat Antiphon for December 21*
Music: *James MacMillan (b. 1959)*

I. THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

The People stand.

SENTENCE

Priest Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Priest The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

People And all flesh shall see it together.

COLLECT

Priest Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 11: 1-5

President of St. Peter's Youth Council

A SHOOT SHALL COME OUT FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

A TENDER SHOOT has started
Up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted
from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight,
blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us,
from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us
the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might
gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

Words: 15th century,
tr. William Bartholomew (1793-1867)
Music: Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)

NOW CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

MOTET

HELP US, O LORD.
For with thee is the fount of life.
In thy light shall we see light.
Let us march and try our ways.
Turn to God.
It is good that man should wait.
It is good that man should hope for the salvation of the Lord.

Words: *cf. Psalm 36:9*
Music: *Aaron Copland (1900-1990)*

II. THE WORD OF GOD

The People stand.

SENTENCE

Officiant O people of Zion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations, and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

Officiant Declare his honor unto the nations:

People And his wonders to all people.

COLLECT

Officiant Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

ANTHEM

KYRIE ELEISON. (*Lord have mercy.*)

The Lord will surely come and not delay, and He will bring to light the things hidden in darkness. The Lord will surely come, and will manifest Himself to all nations.

Therefore work out your own salvation with fear and trembling that you may be blameless and innocent, Children of God without blemish.

Kyrie eleison.

THE LORD WILL SURELY COME

Words: *Philippians 2 and the Benedictus Antiphon*
for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Music: *Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)*

THIRD LESSON Micah 4: 1–4

Mayor of the City of Clayton

IN DAYS TO COME the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

This anthem was commissioned by the St. Peter's Choir in 2019.

KING OF GLORIE, King of Peace,
I will love thee:
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me:
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spar'd me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.

Though my sinnes against me cried,
Thou didst cleare me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst heare me.

Sev'n whole dayes, not one in seven,
I will praise thee.
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.

Thou grew'st soft and moist with tears,
Thou relentedst:
And when Justice call'd for fears,
Thou disentedst.

Small it is, in this poore sort
To enroll thee:
Ev'n eternitie is to short
To extoll thee.

Words: *Praise (II)* by George Herbert (1593–1633)
Music: *Francis Pott* (b. 1957)

FOURTH LESSON Luke 4: 14–21

President of Eden Theological Seminary

THEN JESUS, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 66: “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

III. THE PROPHETIC CALL

SENTENCE

Officiant Behold, I will send my Messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.

Officiant Prepare ye the way of the Lord:

People Make his paths straight.

COLLECT

Officiant O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The People sit.

ANTHEM

WATCHMAN, tell us of the night
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

Words: *John Bowring (1792–1872)*
Music: *Alan Hovhaness (1911–2000)*

FIFTH LESSON Malachi 3: 1–7

Deacon, The Church of All Saints and Ascension
and St. Peter's Church

SEE, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those

who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

MOTET

An offering will be received during the singing of this motet.

FUIT HOMO missus a Deo,
cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium,
ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine,
et pararet Domino plebem perfectam.

THERE WAS A MAN sent from God,
whose name was John.
This man came as a witness,
to give testimony about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord a perfect people.

Words: *John* 1: 6-8

Music: *G. P. da Palestrina* (c. 1525–1594)

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 3: 1–11

Mayor of the City of Brentwood

IN THOSE DAYS John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 76: “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

IV. THE CHRIST-BEARER

SENTENCE

Priest Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, “God with us.”

Priest Unto us a child is born:

People Unto us a Son is given.

COLLECT

Priest Almighty and everlasting God, who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen thy glory manifested in our flesh, and thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in thine image, and conformed to the likeness of thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The People sit.

CAROL

ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM
A Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit “Ave!
Ave, regina virginum:
Coeli terraeque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum.”

“Quomodo conciperem,
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem,
Quae firma mente vovi?”
“Spiritus sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia.
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas
Secura, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.”

THE ANGEL STEALING
into her chamber,
mollifying the Virgin’s fear,
said to her, “Hail!
Hail, Queen of virgins:
you will conceive the Lord of heaven
and earth and give birth, while
still a virgin, to the salvation of
humankind; you will be made the gate
of heaven, the cure of sins.”

“How could I conceive,
who have never known a man?
How could I break
what I with firm mind have vowed?”
“The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall carry out all these things.
Be not afraid, but rejoice, free from
care since your chastity
will remain unstained in you
through the power of God.”

Ad haec, virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
“Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere
Dei consilio.”

Angelus disparuit,
et statim puellaris
uterus intumuit
vi partus virginalis.
Qui circumdatus utero
novum mensium numero;
hinc exiit, et iniit conflictum,
affigens humero;
Crucem qua dedit ictum
hosti mortifero.

Eia Mater Domini,
quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini,
cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora Filium
ut se nobis propitium
exhibeat et deleat peccata:
praestans auxilium
vita frui beata
post hoc exilium.

*To this, the noble Virgin,
replying, said to him:
“I am the lowly maidservant of
almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger,
privy to so great a secret,
I give my consent, and I desire to see
done what I hear;
I am ready to obey
God’s plan.”*

*The angel disappeared,
and immediately the girl’s
womb swelled with the force of the
maiden’s pregnancy.
He, after being wrapped in the womb
for nine months in number,
left it and began the struggle,
fixing to his shoulder
the Cross, with which he dealt a blow
to the deadly enemy.*

*Hail, Mother of our Lord,
who brought back peace
to angels and to humankind
when you gave birth to Christ!
Pray your son
that he may show us favor
and destroy sin,
giving us help
to enjoy the blessed life
after this time of exile.*

Words: 13th century

Music: Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 1:39–49

Network Facilitator at TogetherSTL

IN THOSE DAYS MARY SET OUT and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL

THERE IS NO ROSE of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
That there be one God in persons three,
Pari forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds too:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

A marvelous thing.

Equal in form.

Glory be to God on high:
Let us rejoice.

Let us go.

Words: 15th century
Music: Jessica Nelson (b. 1983)

MAGNIFICAT

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Words: Luke 1:46-55 and Gloria Patri
Music: Edington Service, Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

AND THE ONE WHO WAS SEATED ON THE THRONE said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 62: "'Sleepers wake!' A voice astounds us"

Wachet auf

THE RECTOR'S GREETING

SENTENCE

Priest Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open and bring forth a Savior.

Priest Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:

People For he hath visited and redeemed his people.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Officiant 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.

People Amen.

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

People Amen.

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

People Amen.

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

People Amen.

HYMN 57: “Lo! He comes with clouds descending”

Helmsley

At the conclusion of the hymn the People remain standing as the Procession departs.

Bearing in mind that the organ music after the service, like the liturgy that precedes it, is an offering to God’s glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly.

All are invited to a festive reception downstairs in the Undercroft.

Music After the Service

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

(“‘Sleepers wake!’ A voice astounds us;” Hymn 62)

J. S. Bach

(1685–1750)

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

(b. 1939)

Officiant
The Rev. David Hodges

Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon

Musicians
The St. Peter's Choir
The St. Peter's Singers
David Sinden, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Joseph Arndt, *Assistant Organist*

Acolyte Masters
Sandy Peters
Jim Gilbert

Acolytes
Edward Maher
Michael Souza

Ushers
Kurt Hibler
Hal Burroughs

The Lessons at this Service are read by:

Brooke Dunaway *President of St. Peter's Youth Council*
Hal Burroughs *President of the Ladue City Council,
Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri*

Bridget Kenney McAndrew *Mayor of the City of Clayton*
Deborah Krause *President of Eden Theological Seminary*
The Rev. Valerie Patton *Deacon, The Church of All Saints and Ascension
and St. Peter's Church*
David Dimmitt *Mayor of the City of Brentwood*
Pastor Marco van Raalten *Network Facilitator at TogetherSTL*

The Rev. David Hodges *Rector of St. Peter's Church*

St. Peter's Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist: Family friendly and led by the children of St. Peter's
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: A merry, traditional service with the full choir
- 9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: An intimate and festive gathering with carols

Christmas Day, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: A joyful and quiet celebration of the birth of our Savior

Upcoming Choral Services and Concerts at St. Peter's

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany Sunday January 11 5:00 p.m.

The St. Peter's Singers sing this candlelit service of music and readings for the season. Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria, George Dyson, William Walton, Lennox Berkeley, Richard Proulx, James Whitbourn, and Will Todd.

Concert: Early Music Missouri Sunday January 25 3:00 p.m.

Fair Britain Isle. English Consort Songs by Byrd & Gibbons.

Choral Evensong Sunday February 8 5:00 p.m.

A traditional service of scripture, prayer, and music in the evening.

Concert: Early Music Missouri Sunday March 1 3:00 p.m.

Chamber, Court & Convent

Songs & Sonatas by 17th Century Women Composers

Choral Evensong Sunday March 8 5:00 p.m.

Poetry and Music Holy Monday March 30 6:00 p.m.

Meditations on the Passion. Poetry selected and recited by Dr. Kathryn

Haydon with improvised responses on the Mander organ by David Sinden.

Choral Evensong Sunday April 12 5:00 p.m.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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