



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 21, 2025
8:30 A.M.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
in the Admiral District of West Seattle

*We acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional land of the Coast Salish people,
including the Duwamish and Suquamish People past and present.*

We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes.

Please know, that wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's.

Portions of this service are from the optional expansive-language versions of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, as authorized by the 79th General Convention in 2018. The inclusive language version of *Eucharistic Prayer C* is authorized by the Diocese of Olympia.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

At the sound of the church bell all rise as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

— from *Enriching Our Worship 1*

Presider 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.**

Trisagion

Said three times.

Presider Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

You may be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Read in unison.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18 • *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.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Standing as able.

Matthew 1:18–25

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, O 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.

Presider The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Elise B. Johnstone, D. Min.

There will be a moment for quiet personal reflection.

The Nicene Creed

Standing as able.

People 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 became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Intercessor O God who has created and loved us and who calls us to be still and to wait, and to look with longing for your coming. Heed our prayers as we say, God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Help us to hear and to accept fully your call to be God's people, ignoring the glory and favor of this world, in favor of the glory of the Kingdom of God. We pray for the Church throughout the world, for Sean our presiding bishop, Phil, our bishop, Elise and Robert, our priests; and in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. James, Cathlamet; St. Timothy, Chehalis; All Saints', Vancouver.

God in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Turn us away from our fears and division and teach us to embrace your promise, that ours might be a nation of hope and generosity.

God in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open our eyes to the majesty of your creation and strengthen our resolve to preserve its abundance for the sustenance of all future generations.

God in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Enter into the lives of all who suffer, that they might draw strength from your presence. We pray for those facing violence, for refugees, for the lonely, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who are in need of your strength and support. Especially we ask for your healing powers in the lives of _____, and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

God in your mercy,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lead us to where your loving presence is most needed and help us to be your agents of love for our neighbors. Guide us to be people of gratitude, and we give you thanks for _____, and that which we name now, either silently or aloud.

God in your mercy,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Deal tenderly with those who are grieving and those whose wounds from loss are reopened at this time of year. May we feel the assurances of your promises that we will be reunited in your glorious presence. We lift to your loving care those who have died, especially _____, and those we name now, either silently or aloud.

God in your mercy,
People **hear our prayer.**

Presider Loving God, in the face of Christ we see the fullness of your love for us, help us to be the people you created us to be and to live fully in the light of your countenance. All this we ask in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, One God, now and always. **Amen.**

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of reflective silence is kept.

Said by all **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 our Savior 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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Those present celebrate the peace with a bow, hands raised in blessing, or the peace sign.
You may be seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

*If you wish to make online donations to the ministry
of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church,
please visit <https://sjbwestseattle.org/give>
or use the SJB Venmo QR code. Thank you.*



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. — 1 Chronicles 29:11

Please stand as you are able.

The congregation's gifts of money for the mission and ministry of St. John's and food for the Food Bank and Little Free Pantry are presented and placed on the Holy Table.

Presentation

People All things come from you, O God, and from your own have we given you.

Please remain standing.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, expansive language

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please remain standing.

Presider 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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,

People **We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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 God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People **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.**

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You may be seated.

To receive Communion, you are invited to come to the altar rail and stand or kneel at one of the cushions. To receive the bread (wafer), please hold your hands palms up, and the Presider will place a wafer in your hands. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding your hands palms down initially. If you do not wish to partake of the consecrated wine from the common chalice, you may consume the wafer at the altar rail or return to your seat to consume it.

To receive the wine, please consume your wafer, and then wait for the Eucharistic Minister to bring the common cup to you at the altar rail. Please do not attempt to intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice. If you prefer not to partake of the common cup, but would like to receive the words of ministration, simply cross your arms in front of your chest when the Eucharistic Minister comes to you at the altar rail.

Reception of the sacrament in one kind (either bread or wine) is considered a full experience of the sacrament.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, when you come to the altar rail, simply cross your arms in front of your chest, and the Presider will greet you and offer God's blessing.

If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship This Morning

Altar Guild: Maggie Abrahamson;

Eucharistic Minister/Intercessor: Janet Murphy;

Flowers: Advent Wreath;

Preaching/ Presiding: The Rev. Cn. Elise B. Johnstone;

Reader: Paul Weber;

Ushers: Paul and Maria Weber.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at St. John the Baptist

- 8:30 a.m. **Spoken Holy Eucharist** in the Church
- 9:30 a.m. **Choir Practice** in the Choir Room
- 9:35 a.m. **Adult Formation** in the Library
- 10:30 a.m. **Holy Eucharist with Music** in the Church and livestreamed on our YouTube channel
- 10:30 a.m. **Children's Chapel**
Families begin worshipping in church together, and then children (ages 3–10) will be dismissed for Children's Chapel, with a Godly Play story, returning to the nave at the Peace.
- 11:45 a.m. **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall
- 12:00 p.m. **Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** in the Nave
- 6:00 p.m. **AdventWS** in the Community Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Youth Group** in the Parish Hall

One Service Next Sunday

Please note that on Sunday, December 28, we will mark the First Sunday after Christmas Day with a festive service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. We will not be holding Sunday Morning Adult Formation or Children's Chapel during this single 9:30 a.m. service. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on Sunday, January 4.

Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

Join us for a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall following our 10:30 a.m. service every Sunday for snacks and coffee. Newcomers are especially invited to attend so we can better get to know you and welcome you to SJB. If you are interested in providing snacks and hospitality during our weekly Coffee Hour, please consider signing up to support this ministry on the yellow sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Hosts serve in teams. Experienced hosts are happy to show newcomers the ropes. Thank you!

Adult Formation Sunday Mornings 9:35 a.m.

This Sunday, December 21, concludes our formation topic examining the Season of Advent through the lens of the gospel stories, especially this year's focus on Matthew: how Christ came amongst us as a tiny child, and how we look to Christ coming again in glory. Please note that there will be no Sunday Morning Adult Formation on Sunday, December 28 or January 4. Our next topic beginning Sunday, January 11, for the Season after the Epiphany will be an Exploration of the Gospel of Matthew. Questions? Email Canon Elise. elise@SJBWestSeattle.org

Zoom Evening Prayer

Please note that there will be no Zoom Evening Prayer this Wednesday, December 24, as we celebrate Christmas Eve. Zoom Evening Prayer is a lovely way to wind down the day. At the beginning of the service, everyone chooses a role. The bulletin is displayed on the screen. At the conclusion there is a short social hour. Come join us on Zoom, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/229332884>

Youth Group

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to the Parish Hall 7–8:30 p.m. for snacks, games, and conversation on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next youth group is Sunday, December 21. Contact Jackson with any questions. familylife@SJBWestSeattle.org

Advent Monday Evening Study

Calling All Angels

An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength

This Monday, December 22, we conclude our *Calling All Angels* Advent Book Study. These reflections ask us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds. Especially helpful as we navigate challenging times. Our final session is this coming Monday, December 22, in the SJB library 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Spiritual Practices Small Groups

SJB will continue our exploration of Spiritual Practices in Small Groups. Our evening Spiritual Practices Group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m., while our daytime group will be meeting the second and fourth Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Note that we are taking a brief hiatus for Christmas and will resume our scheduled gatherings in January. Questions? Contact Fr. Robert. robert@SJBWestSeattle.org

AdventWS

Join us for our second annual AdventWS service on Sunday, December 21, 6 p.m. in the Nave. This AdventWS Service will feature scripture, meditation, and music by the SJB Choir. Questions? Please contact Thomas. thomas@SJBWestSeattle.org

Services for Judy Walbaum

Services for Judy Walbaum will be held at SJB, Saturday, January 3, 2 p.m. Please continue to keep Bill and the rest of the Walbaum family in your prayers.

Joint Epiphany Service at SJB, January 6

SJB and our full communion neighbors from First Lutheran, West Seattle, will host a joint service celebrating the Principal Feast of Epiphany, January 6. The service will be held at SJB this year.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in the Admiral District of West Seattle

A Note from Our Rector

We are so glad you are worshipping here today!

Visiting?

If you are visiting with us, we would be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Episcopal Church or about St. John's. I'm Elise, the Rector (the priest in charge) of St. John's—I encourage you to reach out to me—I'd love to meet you!

Interested in Baptism?

In the Episcopal Church, we believe that Baptism by water and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is full initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church—regardless in which Christian tradition you may have been baptized.

If you are interested in Baptism, please reach out to me—I would love to talk with you about this.

As we like to say here, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's!

Welcome!

Elise+
elise@sjbwestseattle.org

If there is a ministry you're interested in knowing more about or getting involved, you can also contact the office
office@sjbwestseattle.org

St. John the Baptist Vestry

Class of 2025

Katie Bucy
Dan Johnson
John Kettel, *junior warden*
Anne Rogers

Class of 2026

Kitt Gassman
John Hainze
Lurilla Lee
Cathy Thompson,
senior warden

Class of 2027

Linda Barson
Terry Brady
Lauren Cox
Mary Kay Jones

Chair

The Rev. Cn. Elise Johnstone

Clerk

Carol Sutcliffe

Treasurer

Monte Frazier

Would you like to request that our Prayer Chain pray for you or someone you know? Would you like to add a name to the Prayers of the People? Please visit

<https://sjbwestseattle.org/prayers>

St. John the Baptist Staff and Office Information

3050 California Ave SW
Seattle WA 98116

Phone 206-937-4545
www.sjbwestseattle.org

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, *rector*

elise@sjbwestseattle.org

The Rev. Robert G. Stevens, *curate*

robert@sjbwestseattle.org

Katelyn Cowell, *parish administrator*

office@sjbwestseattle.org

Thomas Aláan, DMA, *choir director*

thomas@sjbwestseattle.org

Anita McKay, *bookkeeper*

finance@sjbwestseattle.org

Jackson Espeut, *family life minister*

familylife@sjbwestseattle.org

Nora Jindrich, *nursery and youth assistant*

David O. Ruberg, *bulletin guru*

Joyce Gibb, *pianist*

If you wish to reach a staff person who does not have an email listed, please contact the office.

office@sjbwestseattle.org

What's going on at SJB this week

Sunday, December 21, 8:30 AM	Nave
Spoken Holy Eucharist	
Sunday, December 21, 9:30 AM	Choir Room
Choir Practice	
Sunday, December 21, 9:35 AM	Library
Adult Formation	
Sunday, December 21, 10:30 AM	Nave
Holy Eucharist with Music	
Sunday, December 21, 10:30 AM	Nave, Large Godly Play Room
Children's Chapel with Godly Play	
Sunday, December 21, 6:00 PM	Nave
AdventWS	
Sunday, December 21, 7:00 PM	Parish Hall
Youth Group	
Monday, December 22, 12:30 PM	Parish Hall
Staff Advent Luncheon	
Monday, December 22, 6:00 PM	Community Room
AA Shipwrecked	
Monday, December 22, 6:00 PM	Nave
Christmas Choir Rehearsal	
Monday, December 22, 6:30 PM	Library
Advent Book Study	
Tuesday, December 23, 7:00 PM	Community Room
AA Into Action	
Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 PM	Nave
Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist	
Wednesday, December 24, 9:30 PM	Nave
Carol Singing	
Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 PM	Nave
Christmas Eve Eucharist	
Thursday, December 25, 9:30 AM	Nave
Christmas Day Eucharist	
Thursday, December 25, 6:30 PM	Community Room
AA 12x12	
Friday, December 26, 6:00 PM	Community Room
AA Shipwrecked	
Saturday, December 27, 7:45 AM	Parish Hall, Community Room
AI-Anon	
Sunday, December 28, 9:30 AM	Nave
Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist	
*Indicates that a group is renting SJB for this use.	