

GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



"For those in darkness, light is dawning" by Lauren Wright Pittman,
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 • 5 p.m.

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- Thank you for joining us for worship today at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. If you are new to the Cathedral, we invite you to fill out our welcome card. Welcome cards are available in the pews or text GUEST to 816-310-1888.
- If you need a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. Instructions to connect via Bluetooth are on the back table.
- Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered, accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.

Service Notes

- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (*).
- Donations may be placed in the offering, made through the Cathedral website: kccathedral.org, by scanning the QR code to the right or by texting "GIVEtoGHTC" to 73256. Tap to give using the display in the Tower entrance. Instructions for use are next to the machine. *Thank you for your generosity.*



ORDER FOR EVENING AND HOLY EUCHARIST

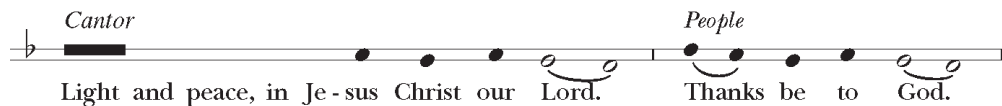
VOLUNTARY: Largo from Organ Concerto in G Minor, Op. 7 No. 5, BWV 310

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

The Order for Evening

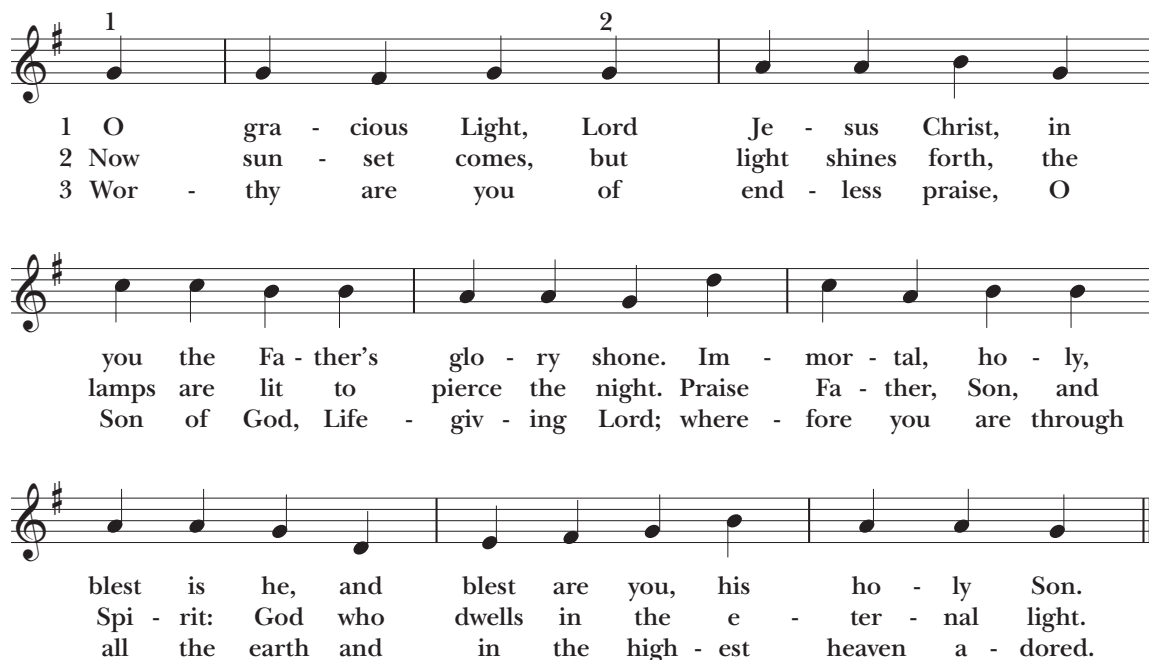
* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR LIGHT

page 109



The presider adds a prayer for light.

* O GRACIOUS LIGHT *Phos hilaron*: 25



Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

The Word of God

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
 the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
 Many peoples 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 the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



Cantor I was glad when they said | to me, *
 "Let us go to the | house of the Lord."
 All Now our feet are | standing *
 within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
 Jerusalem is built as a | city *
 that is at unit|y with itself;
 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of | the Lord, *
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the | Name of the Lord.
 For there are the thrones of | judgment, *
 the thrones of the | house of David.
 Pray for the peace of Je|rusalem: *
 "May they | prosper who love you.
 Peace be within | your walls *
 and quietness | within your towers.
 For my brethren and com|panions' sake, *
 I pray for | your prosperity.
 Because of the house of the Lord | our God, *
 I will seek | to do you good."

Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

Lector You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* ALLELUIA VERSE *Cantor; then People*



Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu-ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor



Show us your mercy, ▲ O Lord, * and grant us your / salvation.

All repeat the three alleluias.

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Gospeller Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

* THE NICENE CREED

page 358

All 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.

Intercessor	With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”
	For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For this city and for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering. We pray especially for those on the Cathedral’s Prayer List, and for those whom we now name silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord,
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For the poor, the immigrants and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially for those we now name, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.
Intercessor	For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
People	Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

page 360

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

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 your Son 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 our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

* THE PEACE

page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE 2026 PLEDGES

CELEBRATION PRAYER

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

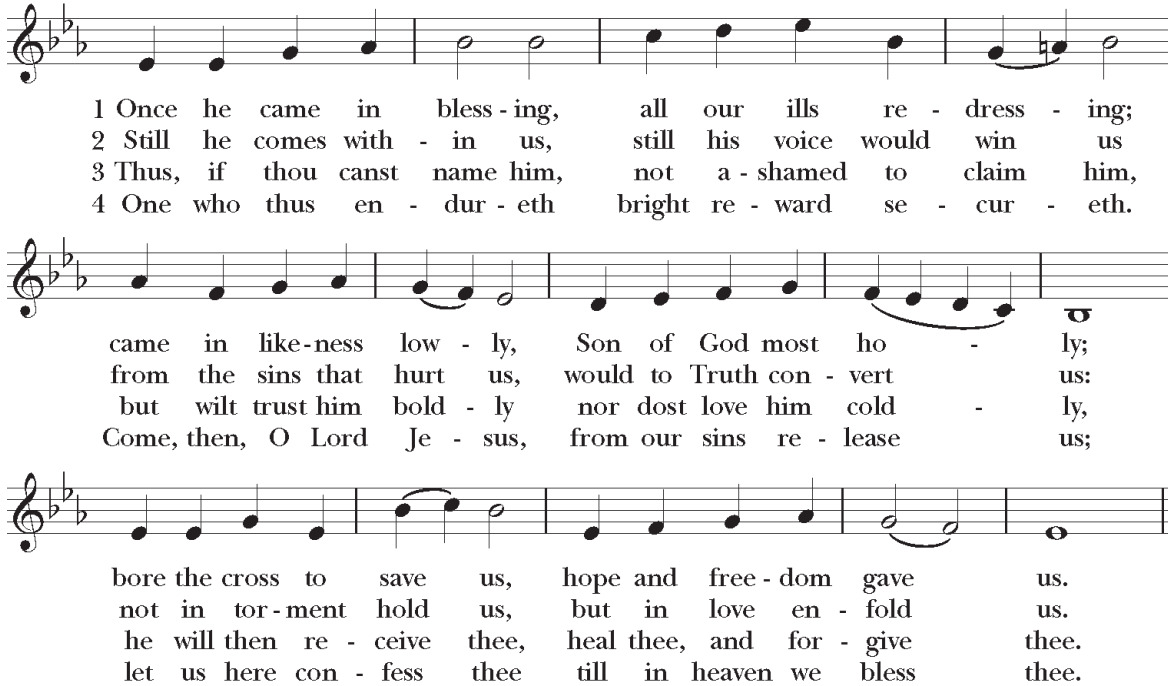
The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

page 376

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

* OFFERTORY HYMN: 53 "Once he came in blessing"



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer A

page 367



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

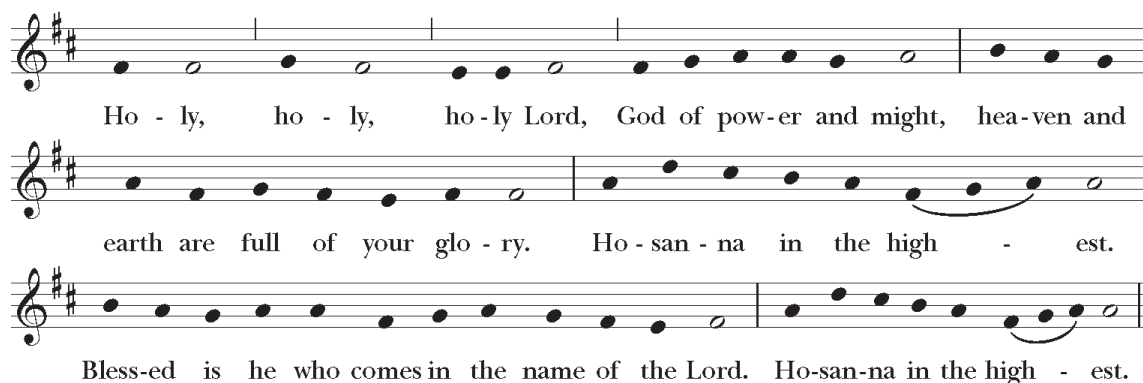
Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

All

S124: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Presider

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All

AMEN.

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 All 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.

* BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All

S161: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
 For gluten-free bread, cross your hands palms down.
 For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.*

* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

page 366

Presider Let us pray.

All 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.

* THE BLESSING

* DISMISSAL

Following the dismissal,

People Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN: 59 "Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935). Copyright: Music: Descant used by permission of Cambridge University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

VOLUNTARY: Presto, 4th movement of Organ Concerto , Op. 4 No. 5

G.F. Handel (1685-1759))

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Lector & Healing Minister	Patti Ryder
Cantor	Dr. Kelli Van Meter
Organist	Zaheer Popo

Cathedral Prayer List

To place a person on this prayer list, text PRAYER to (816) 310-1888 or email Deacon Barbara Wegener, bwegener@kccathedral.org. View the prayer list anytime: kccathedral.org/prayers

Pray for: Katie Rose; Bill Stancil; Gene Easter; Phineas Gitta; All affected by Hurricane Melissa; Maison de Naissance in Haiti; Jody Beck; Betty Ouverson; Mike Dulohery; Gayle Melton Family; The Brunner Family; The Gooch Family; Abby Zwerner; Katie Cummings; Carolyn McGlothen; Lt. Col. Kevin Thomas; Mike O'Neill; Ellen Spake; Alan & Mary Simon; Joan and Joe Bacchus; Marian Philip; The High Family; Elliott Oliver; Kim Heitzenrater; Norma Brooks; Elaine Karsten; Kathy Manning; Terri Wesner; Lenette Johnson; Sandra Fuhrman; Jim Holstein; Kay Steiner; Brian and Amy Hummell; Joel; Ken McCandless; Diego Garcia; Jeremy Oliver; Don Brown; George Helmkamp; Mike Barzee & Family; Iris Parsons; Larry McMullen; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Joyce Morrow; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; Yvonne Kehoe Meier; Jeffrey and family; Charlotte Colburn; All those fighting chronic illness; All families affected by gun violence; First Responders; All Immigrants

Pray for the Departed: The Rev. Barbara Beam; LaGreta Gitta; Faye Brunner; Gayle Melton; Richard Gooch; Sue King; Jay Robert Sherwood; those lost in war; those who have died from gun violence

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana – Pineville, LA; The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Bishop Access for All God's Children Committee

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please contact the Cathedral office (jtoma@kccathedral.org) if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary.

November 30

Nan & Paul Schooling
Niccole Winney Williams

December 1

Zachary Ryder

December 2

Doug Curran

December 3

Shea Spoonhour

December 4

Johnathan Michka
Hampton Hubbard
Sarah Lagergren

December 5

Bobby Brown
Brend Eichman

This Week at GHTC

Learn more about our weekly services & opportunities for study and fellowship: kccathedral.org

Sunday, November 30

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m. Adult Formation: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices
9:30 a.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
10:30 a.m. Cathedral Kids
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Advent Workshop
5 p.m. Order for Evening and Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 2

7:30 a.m. GHTC's Virtual Cafe+
12:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study+
6:45 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study+

Wednesday, December 3

10 a.m. Staff Gathering
12 p.m. Noonday Prayer*
12 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 4

6 p.m. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting
7 p.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir

Friday, December 5

10 a.m. Nativity Puppets School Performance
7 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance

Saturday, December 6

11 a.m. Women's Lunch & Outreach Project
2 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance
5 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance

Sunday, December 7

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m. Adult Formation: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices
9:30 a.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
10:30 a.m. Cathedral Kids
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
2 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance
5 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

+On Zoom

*In person and streamed on YouTube @kccathedral

Love in Action: Growing in Faith and Community

As the season of Pentecost once again comes to an end, love never ends. Growth never ends. Our faith remains strong as long as we are actively loving one another. The writer of Hebrews told us a few weeks ago to “let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have...” Paul writes to Timothy and says that the people “are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share...” In keeping with these teachings, we ask that we all continue our commitment to the work and ministry of our Cathedral in 2026.

LOVE IN ACTION



Growing in Faith and Community

You may make your financial commitment and support our continued growth by returning your pledge card to the Cathedral by mail or in the offering plate. You may also make your commitment online through the Cathedral's website: kccathedral.org/stewardship. Thank you for your continued care and support of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Bible readings and music provide an opportunity for spiritual reflection and preparation as we anticipate the joy of Christmas and the hope of Christ's return.

Sunday, December 7 | 5 p.m.



Holiday Open House and Gift Bazaar

Enjoy the festive decorations, complimentary lunch, tour of the facility, and a selection of holiday gifts made by the mothers and children at Sheffield Place!

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4

916 Newton Ave | Kansas City, MO 64126

Drop by anytime during the event for a tour. No cost/no RSVP needed.

Contact Stephanie Hoover with any questions:
816.483.9927 x129 or shoover@sheffieldplace.org

The mission of Sheffield Place is: "To empower homeless mothers and their children to heal from their trauma and become self-sufficient."

sheffield place

EST. 1991

Outreach Volunteer Opportunities

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

In partnership with St. Paul's on Main, we have been invited to help organize and distribute food as part of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program). We meet from about 9:30 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of each month. To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or bwegener@kccathedral.org.

Pete's Garden

In the lower level of Founders' Hall, Pete's Garden is a food rescue committed to less food waste and more family meals. They collect unserved prepared food from caterers, restaurants and food service operations each day. Volunteers work together to portion and package donated food so it can be redirected to social service agencies who get meals to families. Sign up for a shift at petesgarden.org/volunteer.

Nourish KC

Volunteers are the heart and soul of NourishKC. Every meal served, every pantry stocked, and every food item redistributed is made possible because of the time, energy, and dedication of our volunteers. Whether it's lending a hand in our Community Kitchen, assisting with pantry distribution, or helping with events, your contribution makes a lasting impact. Sign up for a shift at theprospectkc.org/nourish-kc.



GLOVES & WARM SOCKS

For men & women at

 **Shelter KC**
A Kansas City Rescue Mission

Bring donations of gloves
and socks for men or
women to the Tower
entrance during
November & December

Advent Greens & Christmas Flowers

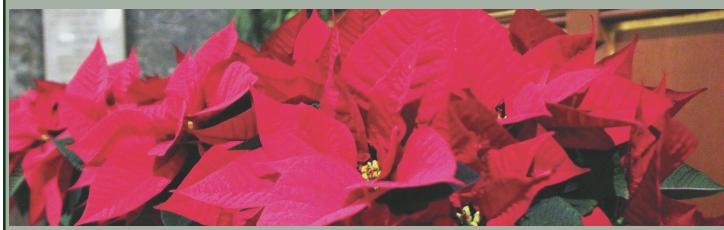
Flowers and Greens will once again adorn the Cathedral as part of our celebrations. Your gift in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one helps provide festive decorations for Christmas Eve through The Feast of the Epiphany. This visual proclamation of the glory of the Incarnation adds so much to our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



- Give online using the QR code.
- Text "GIVETOHTC flowers" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
- Mail a check to the Cathedral office or place in Sunday's offering.

To have your name appear in the Christmas bulletins, make your gift by Wednesday, December 17. (Gifts received after this date will appear in subsequent bulletins.)

Thank you for your generous gifts in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!



Join Us in Making a Difference! Volunteer at Our Church

You are invited to use your skills and spirit to make a real impact. Whether you have a few hours or want to dive into regularly serving, there are many ways to help: serving in worship services, teaching/helping with children & youth programs, assisting with the Cathedral gardens, singing in the choir and more.

Volunteering lets you give back, connect with others, and grow in faith.

For more information, visit kccathedral.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator Joan Bergstrom at volunteers@kccathedral.org.



FIND YOUR PLACE TO SERVE

Year End Giving

We want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the generous gifts we receive this time of year. Your support throughout the year makes our work possible, but during the holidays, we are especially aware of your generosity and how it benefits our community. You may make your donations online through our website, by placing them in the Sunday offering or by mailing to the Cathedral office.

Donations received by mail must be postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2025 contributions. *Please note that the Cathedral office will have limited hours between December 24-January 2.* If you have a question about your pledge or other giving, please contact Cathedral Administrator Julie Toma at jtoma@kccathedral.org or 816.214.9936.



Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

First Sunday of Advent: Hope & Vigilance

"Last Judgment" Illumination (Matthew 24)

Today's lectionary readings speak of hope and vigilant preparation. Here, at the very start of a new liturgical year, attention is focused on hope for a future where God's kingdom is firmly established and all nations live together in peace. This theme provides the basis for opening Advent with what might be seen as a surprising text about judgment and destruction. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus presents a vision of the end of the age and of his role as God's agent for inaugurating the heavenly kingdom. Thus, we begin Advent with a reminder of the contrast between the world as it is today and the heavenly kingdom God is in the process of creating. The transforming work of Christ will be understood in the context of this divine action.

The "Last Judgment" illumination portrays the fact that we now live in the period between Christ's incarnation and his return. In this depiction we find a great deal of darkness and chaos in the lefthand portion of the illumination, but see openness, brightness, and indicators of God's presence in the righthand portion. The central section features arches and open spaces and constitutes the heart of the portrayal. Here the cross and the circle meet, suggesting the reconciling work of Christ. In the righthand section we note more crosses and circles bisecting. At the bottom is a hope-inspiring patch of green foliage. These images remind us that we live in the "in-between" period.

In a general sense, all the illuminations of Matthew's Gospel in the Saint John's Bible convey in some way what it means that the Messiah has broken into history. They all present a vision of Christ defeating the powers of sin, death, and chaos. However, Advent also reminds us that the coming of the kingdom is gradual.

It requires patience, vigilance, and preparation. God's work is ongoing in our midst, but life as usual can blind us to that working, resulting in spiritual indifference and deadness.

The "Last Judgement" illumination uses the same colors to portray the world in the lefthand section and the kingdom of God in the righthand one. However, the quality and effect are very different. The continuity of color is intended to convey the message that Christ's work is not a total break with the world but a transformation of it. The old order of sin, chaos, and death will be transformed into the kingdom of God.

In light of this expectation, today's Gospel reading exhorts us to "stay alert" and "be ready." We should awake from spiritual sleep and actively prepare our hearts and lives for Christ's coming. The Epistle reading urges us to "cast away the work of darkness" and "put on the armor of light." The Old Testament reading encourages us to work for peace and justice now in anticipation of God's coming kingdom. These Advent texts remind us that at our best we should live holy lives characterized by peace and justice in vigilant anticipation of Christ's transforming return.



Formation for All Ages

Adults: Sundays

9:15 a.m. • Common Room

Episcopal Beliefs & Practices: A Study of the Prayer Book

Through a weekly study of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer we will explore the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. If you are curious about the Anglican way of Christianity, want to better understand familiar prayers and liturgies, or are seeking to engage more deeply in Christian practice and theology then this course is for you! No preparation needed, prayer books will be provided in class.

Children: Sundays

10:30 a.m. • Haden Hall

Cathedral Kids

Cathedral Kids meets during the first half of the 10:30 a.m. worship service and during this time we weave together our sacred stories and our Episcopal identity with the Weaving God's Promises curriculum. Children attending Cathedral Kids will meet their parents or guardians inside the tower doors during the passing of the peace.

Once a month, we observe **Family Worship Sundays**. These Sundays provide an opportunity for families to worship together. Worship Boxes with resources for children are in cabinet in the back cross aisle.

Upcoming Family Worship Dates: December 28, January 11

Youth: Sundays

Sunday Formation • 9:15 a.m.

Formation study with light breakfast options.

Youth Group • 6 p.m.

Study, fun and dinner.

Adults: Tuesdays

GHTC's Virtual Cafe • 7:30 a.m. • Zoom

The Virtual Café is open every Tuesday morning for Cathedral members and friends to connect; discuss current topics and activities happening at the Cathedral and in our community; and share what's on your mind. For details, visit kccathedral.org/other-activities.

Women's Bible Study • 12:30 p.m. • Zoom

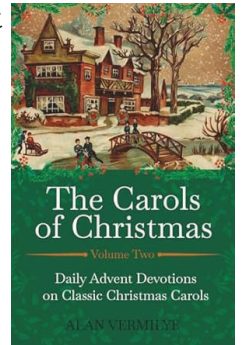
Conversation is lively, thought-provoking, and often irreverent. All are welcome. Visit our website, kccathedral.org/adultformation, for the Zoom link.

Beginning November 25, WBS will start its Advent study. We'll be reading *The Carols of Christmas, Volume 2* by Alan Vermilye. Each week looks at a well-known carol so it is easy to drop in if that's the one week you have available during Advent, no need to buy the book.

The Carols of Christmas, Volume 2 is a collection of devotionals based on beloved carols that will inspire readers to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. In this 28-day devotional journey, you will experience a fresh take on familiar melodies with personal reflections to guide you.

Books can be found at your favorite booksellers. Read closely before buying! We're reading Volume 2, but there are several different volumes of this book.

We hope you can join us for part of the Advent season!



Lectionary Bible Study • 6:45 p.m. • Zoom

Join us for a discussion of context which will, with God's grace, lead us to a discussion of how an understanding of scripture can restore us to fullness with God and each other in Christ. Join the Lectionary Bible Study group in Realm or on our website, kccathedral.org/adultformation, for more details.

Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell, *Canon for Adult Formation*; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon*; The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano, *College, Youth & Children's Minister*; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Director of Music*; Zaheer Popo, *Associate Organist*; Julie Toma, *Cathedral Administrator*; Holly Campbell, *Events Coordinator*; Steve Berman, *Finance Coordinator*; Dr. Joan Bergstrom, *Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator*; Angie Graham, *Facility Manager*; Bianca Jackson, *Assistant Facility Manager*; The Very Rev. Peter J. DeVau, *Dean Emeritus*; Canon John Schaefer, *Canon Musician Emeritus*

The Vestry: Steve Moore, *Senior Warden*, smoore@skeltonmoore.com; Nigel Jones, *Junior Warden*, redbox712@gmail.com, (405) 747-6550; Chip Buckner, *Treasurer*; Blain Lagergren, *Clerk*; Bill Boyd; Julie Brogno; Colin Chambers; Pat Decker; Paget Higgins; Steve King; Christine Morrison; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley

YOU ARE INVITED

Mingle and Munch!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 5:30-9 P.M.
Home of Kristen & Mathias Nichols in the KC northland

Bring a beverage and dish (appetizer or dessert) to share.

Wear your favorite fun holiday sweater/outfit.



All ages welcome!

Upcoming Events & Announcements

For more info and signup links: kccathedral.org/events

Saturday, December 6 • 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S LUNCH & OUTREACH PROJECT

The women of GHTC are invited to help make gift bags for children in residential care at Crittenton AND pack food for local school children to have over the holiday break.

RSVP at kccathedral.org/advent so we have a correct lunch count.

For details and to purchase tickets, visit nativitypuppets.org. Discounted tickets available with code NPChurch



PRESENTED BY NATIVITY PUPPETS

The Nativity

This celebrated annual spectacle comes alive with larger than life, seven-foot puppets and live voices, singers, and musicians for this classic enactment.



Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 7 | 5 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
NOON (DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 A.M.)

CITY COME AGAIN



Since 1982, William Jewell College has partnered with Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to present The City Come Again as a gift in music and word to Kansas City. This program features students and faculty presenting seasonal music, poetry, and more. This event is free.