

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 7, 2025
10 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*The Congregation joins in the portions printed in **bold italics**.*

As Advent is a season of quiet expectation and contemplation, it is traditional to omit organ preludes and postludes. The service will begin with the processional hymn.

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

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

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.***

KYRIE, S91

Healey Willan

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

All sit

Isaiah 11:1-10

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. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall

lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;*

*That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;*

*That the mountains may bring prosperity to
the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.*

*He shall defend the needy among the
people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.*

*He shall live as long as the sun and moon
endure, **

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles

Thanks be to God.

Recite in unison

from one generation to another.

*He shall come down like rain upon the mown
field, *
like showers that water the earth.*

*In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the
moon shall be no more.*

*Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!*

*And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.*

might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

5
Open our ears, O merciful God; Let us hear your saving Word.
Repeat Alleluia as needed

Matthew 3:1-12

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All kneel, as able

Form IV, BCP, p. 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Auburndale, and Holy Trintiy Episcopal Church, Bartow.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the bishops and clergy of The Church of Bangladesh. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Heavenly Father, watch over and protect our

nation’s military members and their families, especially, **Andrew, Brandon, Bryan, Caleb, Chase, Danielle, Eric, Geoffrey, Harry, Jack, Jay, John, Johnny, Kyle, Matthew B., Matthew M., Milton, Murray, Ricky, and Sarah.** *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who cannot be here with us today especially **Frank**. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

God of peace and justice, we pray for all those who live under armed conflict in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, Iran and other places around the world. We pray for those with power over war or peace and those commanded to fight; for

wisdom, compassion and restraint to guide their decisions. We pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Holy Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

All sit

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer C)

BCP, p. 369

**At the Offertory,
Anthem**

“Make Straight in the Desert a Highway”

John Carter

Heather Schleicher, Flute

Presentation Hymn 56,

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Tune: VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

(We will sing stanza #2 only)

O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest 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 things come of Thee, O Lord.
And of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the

human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
*By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus, S-129

Setting: Robert Powell

Please kneel, as able
And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by

him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify

them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in

his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; ***Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia!***

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.

The Holy Eucharist is Christ's eternal banquet, to which all adults and children are invited. If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition (and regardless of your current status in any other church) we welcome you to receive communion with this community of God's people. At the time of communion, the ushers will indicate when your row should come forward. Please come to the altar rail; you may stand or kneel. The bread will be placed in your outstretched hands; the appropriate response is "Amen." When the chalice of wine comes, hold out your bread for the minister to dip it in the wine for you, or decline it by crossing your arms over your chest. If for any reason you prefer not to receive the bread and wine, or if you have not been Baptized, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.

At the Distribution,

Voluntary

A Verse of Three Parts

Thomas Tomkins

Anthem,

“O Sacrum Convivium”

Davidson

The Post-Communion Prayer

All kneel, as able

BCP, p.366

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

Hymn 76,

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!



THIS MORNING’S MUSIC

Much of this morning’s music implicitly or explicitly refers to John the Baptist. The first stanza of the opening hymn (“Hark a thrilling voice is sounding/ ‘Christ is nigh’, it seems to say/ ‘Cast away the works of darkness/O ye children of the day’) echoes his call to repentance, emphasizing that the kingdom of God is at hand. The words were taken from the Latin hymn “Vox clara ecce intonat” and translated into English by clergyman and hymn writer Edward Caswall (1814-1878). The closing hymn, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”, addresses these themes more directly. It was written by French poet and educator Charles Coffin (1676-1749).

The offertory anthem, “Make Straight in the Desert a Highway” draws on imagery from Isaiah 40 and alludes to John’s proclamations in the wilderness. The text was written by Episcopal priest Carl P. Daw Jr. and has been arranged numerous times for both congregation and choir. This setting by prolific composer John Carter was written for choir, keyboard, and flute, and we are grateful to have flautist Heather Schleicher with us today to round out our small ensemble!

The communion anthem is an excerpt from Thomas Aquinas’s Latin text “O Sacrum Convivium”, which celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and anticipates Christ’s coming glory. While the hymn is most commonly associated the feast of Corpus Christi, its themes of gratitude and hope are

central to Advent as well.



VISITORS AND GUESTS: Welcome to St. John's! We hope you will stay after the service for an opportunity to chat. Snacks and beverages are provided in our Parish Hall. If you have questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or to be included on our newsletter and mailing lists please email the Church Office at office@stjohnsmlb.org.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE may be given in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate some occasion. Contact the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org or 321-254-3365.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Brenda Williams, Eric Turner, John Burleson, Emerson Johnson, Charlene Turner, Barbara Holliday.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: None known.

ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION: 9:00 a.m. Adults in the Parish Hall, Youth in the Chapel.

TGIF: Join the Men's Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m. at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 32935. 321-254-8559.

NEW BIBLE STUDY: "Read the Bible in a Year", every Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Rector's office.

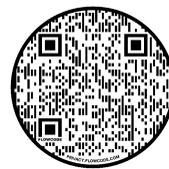
THE PARISH BRUNCH is today following the 10 a.m. service. The main course will be provided. All are welcome to come and enjoy!

A PRAYER REQUEST BOX is available from the St. John's Order of the Daughters of the King in the Sanctuary beside the Daughters' banner. Alternatively, you may contact Sarah Kendall, (702) 203-6093, 537sarah@gmail.com, or any Daughter. We have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and we, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality. Prayers will be passed on to Fr. Timothy if requested.

MILITARY MEMBERS: Help keep our military personnel up-to-date on the Prayers of the People. Email Jackie Bond before the end of the year if a member now on the list is still active, or if you have a new one to add; and let us know your relationship to the active member. We will remove all others starting in January.

WHOLENESS TO FREEDOM FOOD PANTRY: Remember to bring non-perishable foods for the food pantry. Place food in the basket at the back of the church or you may leave donations in the Parish Hall or the office. Many thanks for your generous support.

DONATE TO ST. JOHN'S ONLINE! You can now make a safe and convenient donation to St. John's via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Donate Now!



St. JOHN'S Focus for the month of December has been designated for the two families in foreign missions supported by The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. Outreach offerings for the month of December will be divided between the Dass and Fox families.

Serving in San Paolo, Brazil are the Rev. Steven and Mary Dass, ministering among homeless children and adults in the 'red light district' of Sao Paulo Brazil. This is not funded through the Diocesan budget. You can learn more about them on their blog at spmercymistry.com.

Serving in support of other missionaries are the Rev. Loren and Linda Fox. The Foxes live in northern Thailand, Linda coordinates member care for missionaries while Fr. Loren coordinates strategy and leadership development focused on planting churches among seven unreached peoples who currently live outside the reach of the Church. To learn more email ReachUs@EngagingTheAdventure.org.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

If you have not submitted a completed 2026 pledge card, it is still not too late. Pledge cards are available in the church or by contacting the church office. You can also pledge online by going to our website “stjohnsmlb.org” and clicking on “stewardship.”

As we outline our plans under the leadership of Father Timothy for the upcoming year, the Vestry will rely on your stewardship response in approving a realistic and responsible budget.

Some parishioners prefer to use weekly pledge envelopes in their weekly giving; some don't use the envelopes. If you need envelopes, contact the church office or see Jack Kenworthy or Katie Wilson.



You are invited to join a community of women who believe in the power of prayer, service to others, and the sharing of the gospel to expand the Kingdom of God. You can find out more about the DOK by contacting Sallie Razor at 859-585-5836, srazor@bellsouth.net; or Pam Davis, at 321-480-9283, SunHatPam@hotmail.com.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11, Psalm 146:4-9.
To find all the lessons visit the webpage: lectionarypage.net and click on the date.

SUNDAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24
Greeters	A. Weeks A. Lacy	A. Weeks B. Rincones	A. Weeks J. Miller	TBD
Ushers	B. & T. Chernault	J. Bond L. Miller	A. & J. Lacy	B. & T. Chernault J. Bond L. Miller
Chalice Bearer	K. Oas	M. Salmon	J. Bond	K. Oas
Acolytes	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf
Altar Guild	L. Bennett	M. Salmon	L. Bennett	K. Oas
Counter	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	N/A
A/V	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

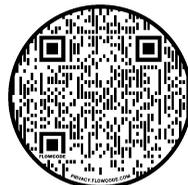
- Sun (12/7) Christian Formation, 9:00 a.m. Adults, Parish Hall; Youth, Chapel.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10 a.m., also Livestreamed.
Parish Christmas Lunch, after the morning service.
- Mon (12/8) AA, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Tues (12/9) Boy Scouts, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Wed (12/10) Bible in a Year Study Group, 10 a.m., Rector's office.
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. Choir Loft.
- Thurs (12/11) Staff Meeting, 9 a.m., Rector's office.
Ladies AA, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Fri (12/12) TGIF, Men's Bible Study, 8 a.m. La Loma Coney Island Restaurant, 1180 Aurora.
- Sat (12/13) Seaside Knitters, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Sun (12/14) Christian Formation, 9:00 a.m., Adults, Parish Hall; Youth, Chapel.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 a.m., also Livestreamed.

All Zoom and Livestream links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Calendar, then clicking on the event. Or you may email office@stjohnsmlb.org and we will send you the link.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*... is a worshipping community, obedient to scripture,
growing as servants of Christ, and sharing His love in word and deed.*

610 Young Street ✕ Melbourne, FL 32935 ✕ 321-254-3365 ✕ www.stjohnsmlb.org
Parish Office email: office@stjohnsmlb.org



The Rev. Timothy Rutherford, Rector
Pastoral Care: 803-565-6750 (Call or Text)
rector@stjohnsmlb.org

Sylvia Tammen, Music Minister
sylvia.tammen1@gmail.com

Jackie Bond, Office Assistant
office@stjohnsmlb.org

Carole Taylor, Bookkeeper
ctaylor9797@yahoo.com

The Vestry of St. John's Church
Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden
Paul Mitz, Jr. Warden
Keith Salmon, Treasurer
Amy Lacy, Secretary

Serving thru 1/2025
Jackie Bond, Kathy Oas, Katie Wilson

Serving thru 1/2026
Jack Kenworthy, Amy Lacy, Julie Miller

Serving thru 1/2027
Peter Fischel, Ben Kendall