

# **Third Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Eucharist**



**December 14, 2025**

**4:00 pm**

# **Welcome to St. Martin's!**

## **St. Martin's Vestry**

Bryan Coussens (Senior Warden)

Justin Cochran (Junior Warden)

Monica Brunson

Kris Dahlstrom

Amanda Vandervort

Jack Short, Certified Treasurer

## **St. Martin's Staff**

The Rev. M.E. Eccles, Rector

Karen Wilberg, Music Director/Organist

Helayne Levin, Communications and Operations Mgr.

JB Enterprises West, Inc., Sextons

The Rev. Patrick Pierce, Priest Associate

**Welcome to all who worship with us today.  
We are blessed by your presence.**

*In the interest of creating a peaceful and prayerful space for worship,  
please refrain from conversation within the sanctuary  
10 minutes before and after the service.*

*Please silence your cell phone during the service  
as a sign of respect for God and the worshiping community.*

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## **Prelude**

**Opening Hymn** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (66)

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

## **The Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, and  
Giver of Life.

*People* **Amen.**

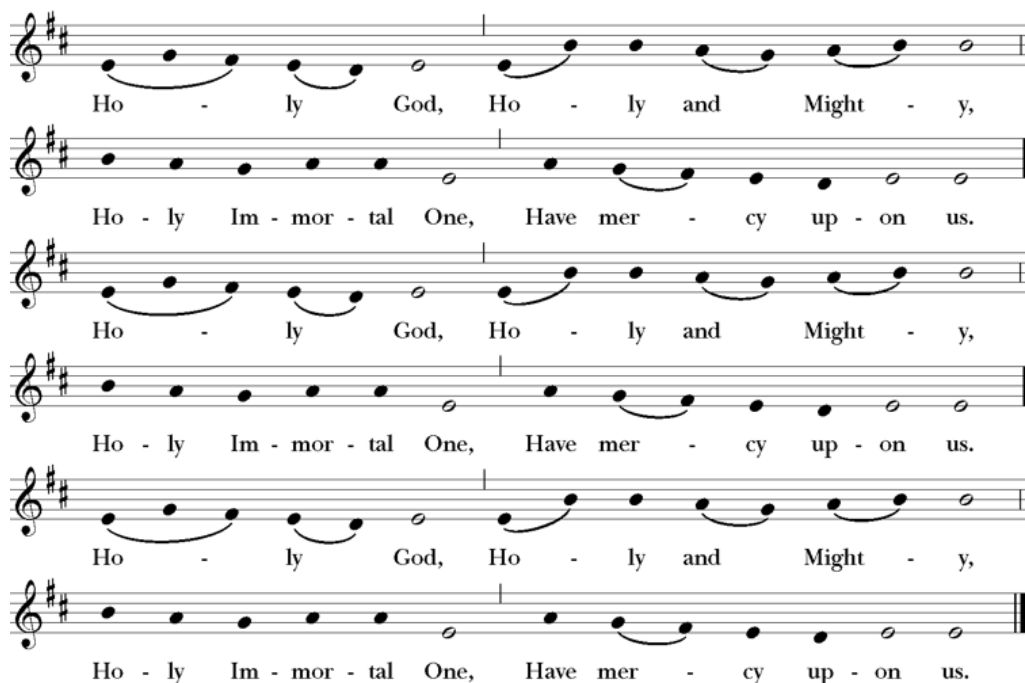
## **Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## **The Trisagion**

*next page*



## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.  
***People***              **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*            Let us pray

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

***People***              **Amen.**

## The Lessons

*The people sit. Two Lessons, as appointed, are read.*

### The First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,

and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Reader says,*

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord.

*People*                     **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 15      Song of Mary                      S247    (see page 15)**

## **The Second Reading James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Reader says*

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord.

*People*                     **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn** There is a voice in the wilderness calling (75)

## **The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11**

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

*People*                    **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And

blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*After the Gospel, the Proclaimer says*  
*Celebrant*                      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                         Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

### **The Nicene Creed** *(Please stand as able.)*

**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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*at the end of each petition...*

*Leader*                      As we wait and watch, we pray...  
*People*                      Lord hear our prayer.

## **The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant*                      Let us confess our sins to God.  
   [silence]

*All*                      God of all mercy,  
                                 we confess that we have sinned against you,  
                                 opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
                                 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
                                 the evil we have done,  
                                 and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
                                 through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
                                 that we may abide in your love  
                                 and serve only your will. Amen.



*Celebrant:*

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**

*Celebrant*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People***

**And also with you.**

## **Announcements**



**DO THE GOOD THAT  
IS YOURS TO DO**

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# Presentation Hymn Watchman tell us of the night (640)

## Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Her above the heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*(Please stand as able)*

Eucharistic Prayer B

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

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

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### *Celebrant*

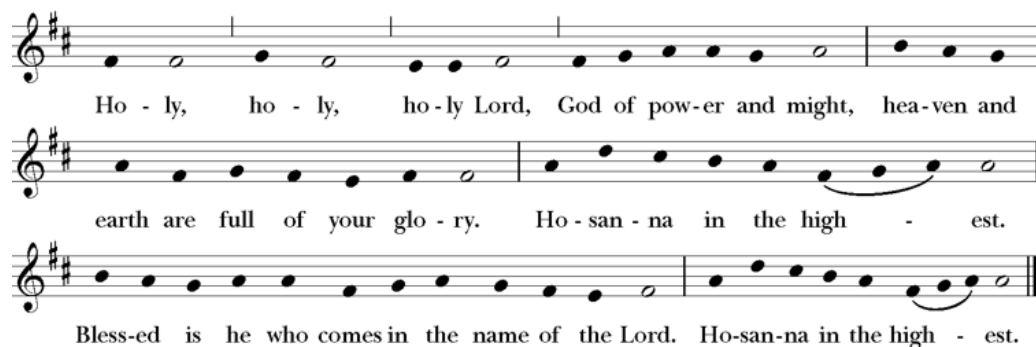
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth...

### *Proper Preface*

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

*next page*



*The Celebrant continues*

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 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People:*

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

*Celebrant:*

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 to your Son in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to him, 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 Mary the Godbearer, Martin 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 Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

***People*                      Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant*                      And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and 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,**

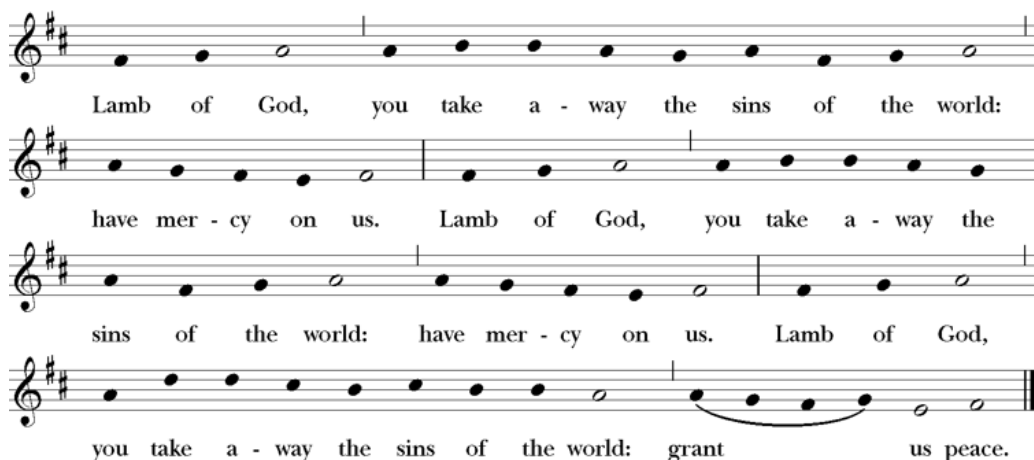
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

## Agnus Dei



## Distribution

*Instructions for distribution will be given at the announcements.*  
***All are welcome!***

**Communion Hymn** Thy kingdom come on bended knee (615) vs 1-3

## The Post-Communion Prayer *(Please stand as able)*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

***Celebrant and People***

**God for whom we wait,  
we thank you that you have fed us  
with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
As we joyfully await your Son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming. Amen.**

## **The Birthday/Anniversary Prayer**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* 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 life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

*Celebrant* ...and the blessing of God...  
*People* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** Hark the Glad Sound (72) vs 1-3

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* ... Alleluia. Alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Postlude**

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# Canticle 15 Song of Mary S247

Antiphon

Unison or harmony

1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness

of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in  
claims the great - ness of the Lord, my

God my Sa - vior; for he has looked  
spi - rit re - joic - es in God

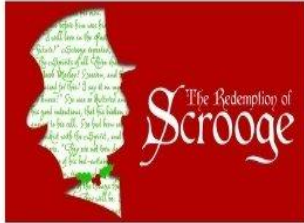
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
3 He has mercy on those who fear him  
4 He has shown the strength of his arm,  
5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
6 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
7 He has come to the help of his ser - vant Israel,  
8 The promise he made to our fathers,  
9 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
10 As it was in the be - ginning, is now,

2 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
3 in every gen - er - ation. [Ant.]  
4 he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit.  
5 and has lifted up the lowly. [Ant.]  
6 and the rich he has sent a - way empty.  
7 for he has remembered his prom - ise of mercy,  
8 to Abraham and his chil - dren for ever. [Ant.]  
9 and to the Ho - ly Spirit:  
10 and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

The antiphon may be sung in unison, with the counter-melody played by an instrument, or it may be sung in three parts.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



6:30 pm

Video & Discussion  
over brown bag supper

# Advent

## Wednesdays

12/3, 12/10, 12/17



8:00 pm

Service  
in sanctuary





Des Plaines Clergy Alliance  
invites You to a

# Community **Blue Christmas**

A Service of Healing & Hope



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
**7:00 PM**

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1095 E. THACKER ST.  
847-824-2043

*Final Worship & Dinner*  
*Sunday, January 4, 2026*

*A time to say thanks to God and to our friends*

*4:00 ~ Eucharist*

*5:30 pm - 8:30 pm ~ Catered Dinner*

Watch for further information on how to RSVP.

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**Keys to the Church**

We know that many of you have the code to the House and that some of you also have physical keys to the church building. Please return those by December 23 unless you plan to be here to help empty out the building. It is best to put them in an envelope with your name on the outside so I can make sure I keep the records straight.

## Mark Your Calendar

December 16 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Vestry

December 17 ~ Advent Series

6:30 pm ~ Scrooge (Lesson 3) | 8:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

**December 18 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Celebrate the Tracker on Thacker**

**December 19 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Blue Christmas**

December 21 ~ 4:00 pm ~ Advent 4 ~ Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm ~ Scrooge (Final Lesson)

**December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm ~ Carols | 6:00 pm ~ Festival Eucharist

December 25 ~ 8:00 am ~ Christmas Day ~ Festival Eucharist

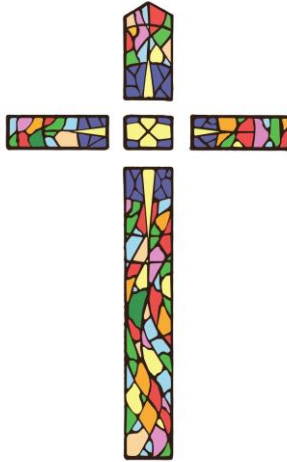
December 28 ~ 4:00 pm ~ Evening Prayer

**2026**

**January 4 ~ 4:00 pm ~ Epiphany Sunday ~ Festival Eucharist**

Final Service of St. Martin of Tours Parish

Dinner following



## **St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

**All are welcome**  
**and fed with the love of God**  
**pets too!**

1095 Thacker St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
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