



# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 24, 2023

8:00 AM

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Welcome to St. Elisabeth's Church



*We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit and a commitment  
to radiate God's love within and beyond our red doors.*

556 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe IL 60022 ♦ 847.835.0458 ♦ [www.steglencoe.org](http://www.steglencoe.org) ♦ [office@steglencoe.org](mailto:office@steglencoe.org)

## Advent

The Christian calendar begins its new year not on January 1, but on the first Sunday of Advent — which is always four Sundays before Christmas (December 25) and the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30). Our word “Advent” derives from the Latin *Adventus*, which means “coming,” and originally referred just to the coming of the feast of Christmas. But over time the season of Advent took on a double meaning. Today it refers both to the “first coming” of Jesus Christ in his birth at Christmas and to his “second coming” at the end of time.

It is important to remember that Advent is not just a season in which we recall an event of the past — Jesus’ birth — but also a time in which we look to the present and the future. When will Jesus come again? When will we see the kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven? Of course no one knows. And so the more important questions are: What can we do as the Church, Christ’s body here on earth, to welcome God’s reign of justice and peace today? What can we do as individuals to reorder our lives in the light of God’s love? What would it mean to live as a people who believe in Jesus as the Savior of all the earth and who expect him to come again at the fulfillment of time? Each Advent we turn to these questions anew.

*-From Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

## Entering in...

By virtue of Creation, and still more the Incarnation, nothing here below is profane for those who know how to see.

--Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

## Practice

Enjoy every moment of this Christmas as sacred – the wondrous story, the children’s joy, the deep satisfaction brought by family and friends, and even in times of loneliness and grief. They are all sacred and a way into the holiness of life.



## The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

### The Word of God

#### The Prelude

#### The Opening Acclamation

*Please stand as able.*

*Presider* Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

#### The Collect for Purity

*Presider* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

#### The Summary of the Law

*Presider* Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## The Kyrie

*Presider* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Assembly* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
*Presider* Lord, have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.  
 We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Assembly* **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A Reading from the second book of Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*Assembly*       **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

*Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.*

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**4 ‘I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

**22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.**

23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

**24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

**26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"**

## **The Second Reading**

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*Assembly*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand for the Gospel, as able.*

**The Gospel**

Luke 1:26-38

*Gospeler*            The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*Assembly*           **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Gospeler*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Assembly*           **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

Seán Hansen

*A period of silence follows.*

## The Nicene Creed

*Please stand as able.*

*Assembly*

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



**The Prayers of the People***BCP pgs. 328-330**Intercessor*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Paula our Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Joseph, our president, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Particularly:

Bishop Michael Curry  
The people of Israel and Palestine  
Isabelle Thomson  
John Arnell  
Joe Foley, Brian Green's friend  
Ginger Sully, Anne & John Tuohy's niece  
Walter Tuohy, John Tuohy's brother  
Henry Carrigan, Carla Arnell's friend  
Carol Johnston, Robert Fischer's friend  
Wayne Gutenmann, Pam Green's cousin  
Vicki Handwerk  
Linda Staubitz

Are there others? .....

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Elisabeth and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

*Assembly*

**Amen.**

## **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Presider*

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*Please kneel as able.*

*Assembly*

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assembly*

**Amen.**

*Presider*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*St. Matt. xi. 28.*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*St. John iii. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

*1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins.

*1 St. John ii. 1, 2.*

## The Peace

*Presider*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Assembly*           **And with thy spirit.**

*Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.*

## The Announcements

### Birthdays

12-27            Tye McOmber  
12-28            Jennifer Cline  
12-30            Joyce Newcomb

### Anniversaries

## The Offertory Sentence

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

## The Collection

*If you are financially able to support the mission of St. Elisabeth's, please put your offering in the collection plate at the back of the church, or you can use this QR code as a shortcut.*



## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as able.*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Assembly* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Presider* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Assembly* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider* All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*Presider*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*Assembly*

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

*Assembly* **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

*A period of silence is kept.*

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*Assembly* **We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

*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.

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing at this time.*

*Gluten-free host available upon request.*

*If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms over your chest.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Please stand as able.*

*Assembly*                **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**



**The Gloria***Assembly*

Glory be to God on high,  
 and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
 We praise thee, we bless thee,  
 we worship thee,  
 we glorify thee,  
 we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
 O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sins of the world,  
 have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
 receive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
 have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;  
 thou only art the Lord;  
 thou only, O Christ  
 with the Holy Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Blessing***Presider*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

*Assembly***Amen.****The Dismissal***Presider*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Assembly***Thanks be to God.****The Postlude**

## This Week

Dec 25-Dec 29	Office Closed for Christmas Break
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day Morning Prayer (10:00 AM) AA Meeting (8:00 PM)
Thursday, December 28	Spoken Eucharist Rite II (7:30 AM)
Saturday, December 30	AA Meeting (5:00 PM)

## Up Next

<u>Sunday, December 31</u>	Spoken Eucharist: Rite I (8:00 AM) Choir Rehearsal (9:00 AM) Choral Eucharist: Rite II (10:00 AM)
January 4	Spoken Eucharist: Rite II (7:30 AM)
January 5	Bible Study (11:00 AM)

## Announcements

**Weekday Worship:** Come join Adam before work or school at **7:30 AM every Thursday** for a short service of Holy Communion with a brief homily on the readings assigned for the day.

**St. Elisabeth's Bible Study** meets weekly on **Fridays at 11:00 AM** in the Guild Room. For more information, contact Mark Tilton. There will be no bible study on December 22 or 29. We will resume on Friday, January 5.

**Climate Forum:** Our seminarian, **Seán Hansen**, recently attended the United Nations' COP28 at Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's request. Join us in the Guild Room after the 10:00 AM service on **Sunday, January 7** to hear Seán speak about his experiences, the outcome of the conference, and our moral duty as Episcopalians to care for God's creation.

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago  
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

## **Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church**

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Assisting Priest</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Pam Green	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>
Seán Hansen	<i>Seminarian</i>

### **Vestry**

Leslie Alter, <i>Warden</i>	Robin Lake, <i>Warden</i>	Ross Shanley-Roberts
Carla Arnell	Carrie Miller-Mygatt	Kathy Svetina, <i>Treasurer</i>
Robert Fischer	Susan Newcomb	Mark Tilton
Tasker Generes, <i>Treasurer</i>		John Tuohy, <i>asst. Treasurer</i>

### **Sunday Schedule**

8:00 AM Spoken Eucharist: Rite I  
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist: Rite II

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday by appointment, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Pastoral Care Number: 847-786-3082