

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:30 AM



ST RICHARD'S
Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist - Rite II

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (red book), # Hymn = 1982 Hymnal (blue book)

Prelude

Still, Still, Still

Anne Krentz Organ

St. Richard's Bell Choir

The Hymn in Procession

#65 Prepare the way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

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

BCP, p.335

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

The 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. **Amen.**

The Trisagion

Betty Carr Pulkingham

Rich and broad

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho -

- ly Im - mor -tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

CCLI #74781 Music by Betty Carr Pulkingham © 1974, 1975 Celebration

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 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.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
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."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
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;
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.
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.
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.
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.

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

Psalm 146:4-9

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 who keeps his promise for ever;
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8 The Lord loves the righteous;
 the Lord cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

The Gospel Hymn

#72 Hark! the glad sound! The Savior comes

RICHMOND

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Leader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.'

"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."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Cameron Spoor

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

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, Form IV

BCP, p. 388

Please stand or kneel, as you are able.

Leader 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.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 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.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 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.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 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.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless and guide those who have been called to serve on our Rector Search Committee. Grant them discerning hearts, patient spirits, and unity of purpose. Keep them steadfast in prayer, open to your Holy Spirit, and attentive to the needs, hopes, and faith of this parish. As they seek a shepherd to lead us, may they be faithful stewards of your mission, seeking not their own will but yours alone. Give them clarity in conversation, courage in decision, and joy in the knowledge that you are present in every step of this journey.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless also those whom you are calling to discern with us, that together we may be led to a rector who will proclaim your Gospel, care for your people, and walk with us in love and service.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on the prayer list printed in the newsletter in the order of service. We also pray for those impacted by conflict around the world, and those the congregation wishes to name at this time, either silently or aloud. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially David Winborn, Patricia Beske, James Barlow, Beatriz Lavallo, and those that the congregation wishes to name at this time, either silently or aloud, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

After a moment of silence, the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 360

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

People **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.**

The Peace *Please stand, as you are able.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

We will pass offering plates during the offertory anthem. If you prefer, you may give online via text.

*To give online, text 73256, with the message: **strichard** (please note: no "s" or caps).*

Offertory Anthem

He Will Come!

Patrick Liebergen

Following the anthem, representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. All are invited to stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Hymn

#380, v.3

OLD 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

The Sanctus

#S-130

Franz Schubert

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The people may remain standing or kneel.

Celebrant Therefore according to his command, O Father,
People **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

BCP, p. 363

The Celebrant continues with additional prayers, concluding with:

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. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Fraction Anthem

#S-164

Franz Schubert

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

Celebrant 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 Communion *All baptized Christians are invited to come forward and receive the Sacrament at the Lord's Table.
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the Celebrant).*

If you would like someone to pray for you, the St. Richard's Prayer Team will be stationed during Communion in the back of the Nave by the font.

Communion Music

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies (Huan-sha-xi)
St. Richard's Bell Choir

setting by Anne Krentz Organ

#75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying

ASCENSION

The Blessing of Community of Care Ministers

Celebrant In the name of St. Richard's Church,
People **We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go, may share with us in the
communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share in one
bread, one cup.**

(If you know someone who would appreciate a COC minister's visit, please contact the church office.)

Prayer After Communion

BCP, p. 365

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

Choral Prayer

An Advent Prayer

Allen Pote

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

#66 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTT GART

The Dismissal

Celebrant or Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (setting of "Stuttgart")

Edward Brougham

Notes About Receiving Communion:

In the Episcopal Church, all who have been baptized with water in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Communion, no matter in which Christian denomination you may have originally been baptized. You may receive Communion either standing or kneeling. If you are not able to come to the altar rail but would like to receive communion, please let an usher know and they will make sure that the ministers bring communion to you. If you do not want to receive Communion, you are welcome at the altar rail for a blessing or prayer by one of the clergy. To indicate you would like a blessing or prayer, simply cross your arms over your chest as you kneel or stand at the rail.

To receive the wafer, place one open hand over the other and the wafer will be placed in your palm. We also have gluten-free wafers for those who require one. To receive the wine, please help the chalice bearer guide the cup to your lips. If you prefer to instinct (dip the wafer in the wine), please hold the wafer in your hands until the chalice bearer comes to you. It is perfectly fine to receive only the bread (wafer). If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your arms over your chest or return to your seat after consuming your wafer.

Saint Richard's Clergy, Staff, and Leadership

The Rev. Jerry Lyle, Deacon

Sara Burden-McClure, Director of Music - sara@saintrichards.org

Spencer Stocker, Youth Minister - sstocker@saintrichards.org

Jen Winborn, Director of Parish Operations -

jennifer.winborn@saintrichards.org

Shauna Kennerly, Preschool Director - preschool@saintrichards.org

Rickey Walker, Sexton - sexton@saintrichards.org

Stephen Mueller, Sr. Warden - seniorwarden@saintrichards.org

Brent Saxon, Jr. Warden - juniorwarden@saintrichards.org

David Todd, Treasurer - treasurer@saintrichards.org

Duke DuTeil, Head Verger - dukeduteil@gmail.com

St. Richard's Online

Website: www.saintrichards.org

Instagram: @saintrichardschurch

Facebook: [saintrichardsepiscopalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/saintrichardsepiscopalchurch)

YouTube: St. Richard's Live

Podcast: Take St. Richard's on the go! Check out our podcast, Day by Day with St. Richard's, available on all major platforms (Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google), where you can find sermon audio and other resources for spiritual growth.

The mission of the Episcopal Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

We pursue this mission by praying and worshiping, proclaiming the Gospel, and promoting justice, peace, and love.

We carry out this mission through the ministry of all our members – from the youngest to the oldest, and everyone in between.