

Solemn High Mass

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025 11 a.m.



Welcome to Atonement. We hope you will participate fully in today's service, as you feel comfortable. Customary times to stand, kneel, and sit are indicated by italic type. Words spoken by the people are indicated by bold type. Hymns can be found by number in the blue hymnal in the pewbacks.

The Mass setting is "Missa Brevis" by Jonathan Dove (b.1959)

THE VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

When the bell rings, please stand, as able.


THE OPENING HYMN • 73

The King shall come when morning dawns

St. Stephen


THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant



Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People



And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991). ©1971 Mason Martens.

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

The Celebrant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The People kneel, as able.

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.

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 KYRIE

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Please stand, as able, for

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

The People sit for the readings from scripture.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE PSALM • 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

Setting: Henry Smart (1813–1879)

For the Lord hath pleasure in his people, and helpeth the meek-hearted. Let the saints be joyful with glory; let them rejoice in their beds. Let the praises of God be in their mouth; and a two-edged sword in their hands; To be avenged of the nations, and to rebuke the peoples; To bind their kings in chains, and their nobles with links of iron; To execute judgment upon them; as it is written, Such honour have all his saints.

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.

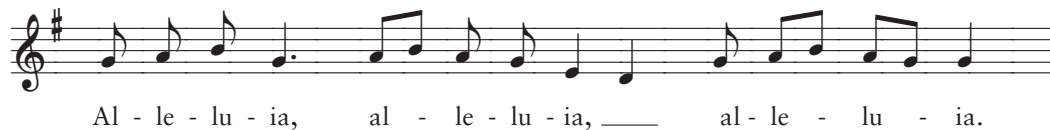
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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.’

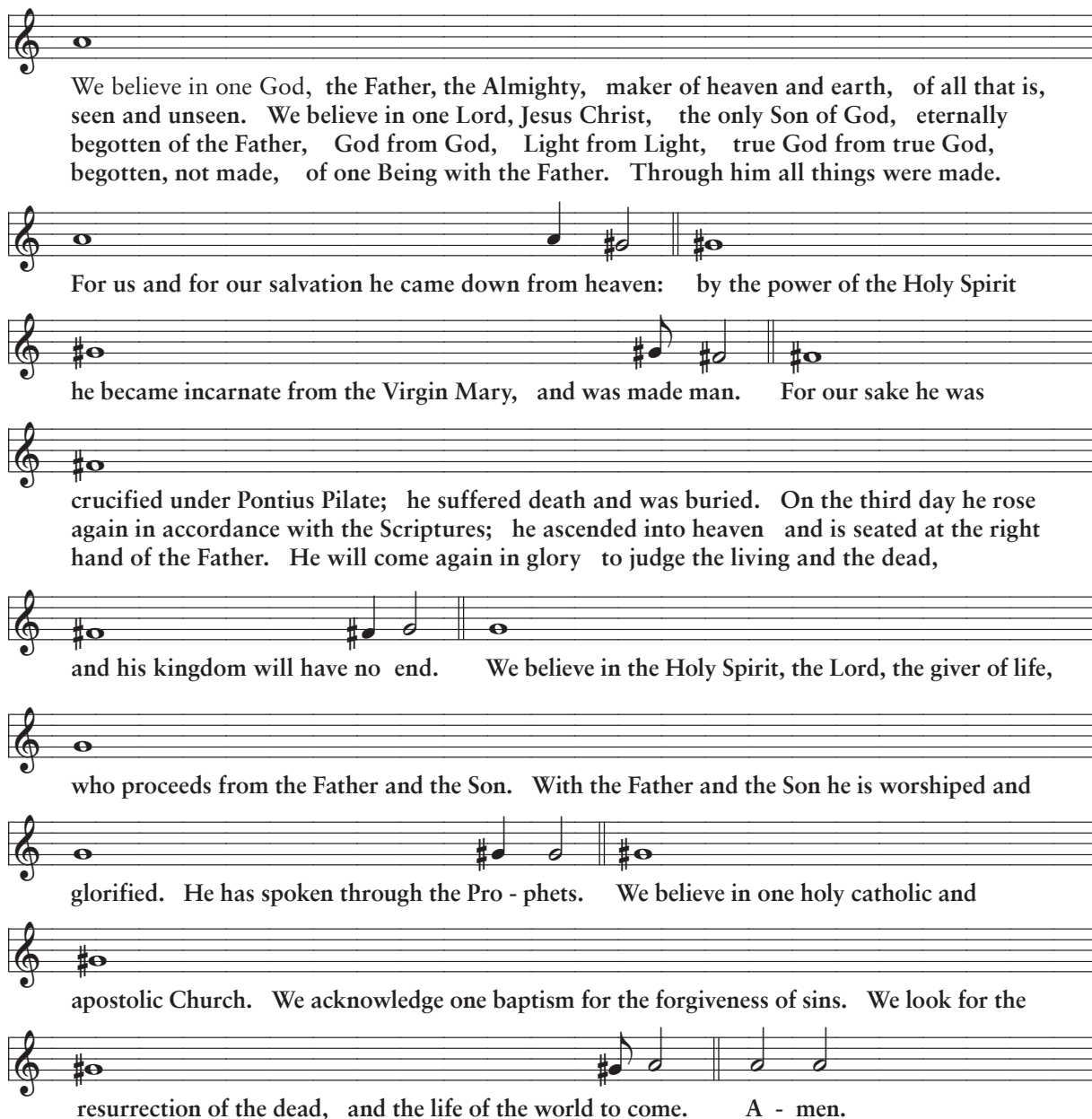
“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please stand, as able.

THE NICENE CREED



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. A - men.

Setting: Bruce Prince-Joseph (1925–2015)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition, the People respond

Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be al - ways with you.

People

And al - so with you.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991). ©1971 Mason Martens.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If this is your first time here, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, which can be found in the pewbacks, and place it in the offering basket or hand it to the priest or an usher after the service.

Online Giving. The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY PROPER

Benedixísti, Dómine

O Lord thou art become gracious unto thy land;
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob:
Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Audivi vocem

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

*Audivi vocem de cælo venientem:
venite omnes virgines sapientissime;
oleum recondite in vasis vestris dum sponsus
advenerit.*

*Media nocte clamor factus est:
ecce sponsus venit.*

I heard a voice coming from heaven:
come all wisest virgins;
fill your vessels with oil, for the bridegroom is
coming.
In the middle of the night there was a cry:
behold the bridegroom comes.

Please stand, as able, and sing

THE OFFERTORY HYMN • 444

Blessed be the God of Israel

Thornbury

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes, with some beams connecting them. There are also some decorative flourishes above certain notes.

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 our thanks and praise.

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.

The Celebrant offers a Proper Preface, before continuing

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

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

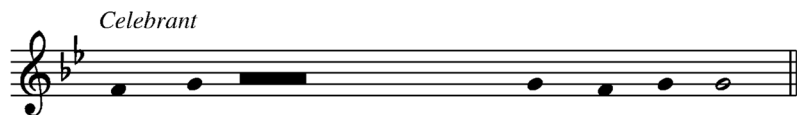
Please kneel or stand, as able, as the Celebrant continues the prayer.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Celebrant




There-fore according to his com-mand, O Fa-ther,

People



We re-mem-ber his death, We pro-claim his re-sur-rec-tion,



We a-wait his com-ing in glo-ry.


Setting: *Pater noster* tone, adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b.1974). ©1985 Bruce E. Ford.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through 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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.


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.




A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER


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



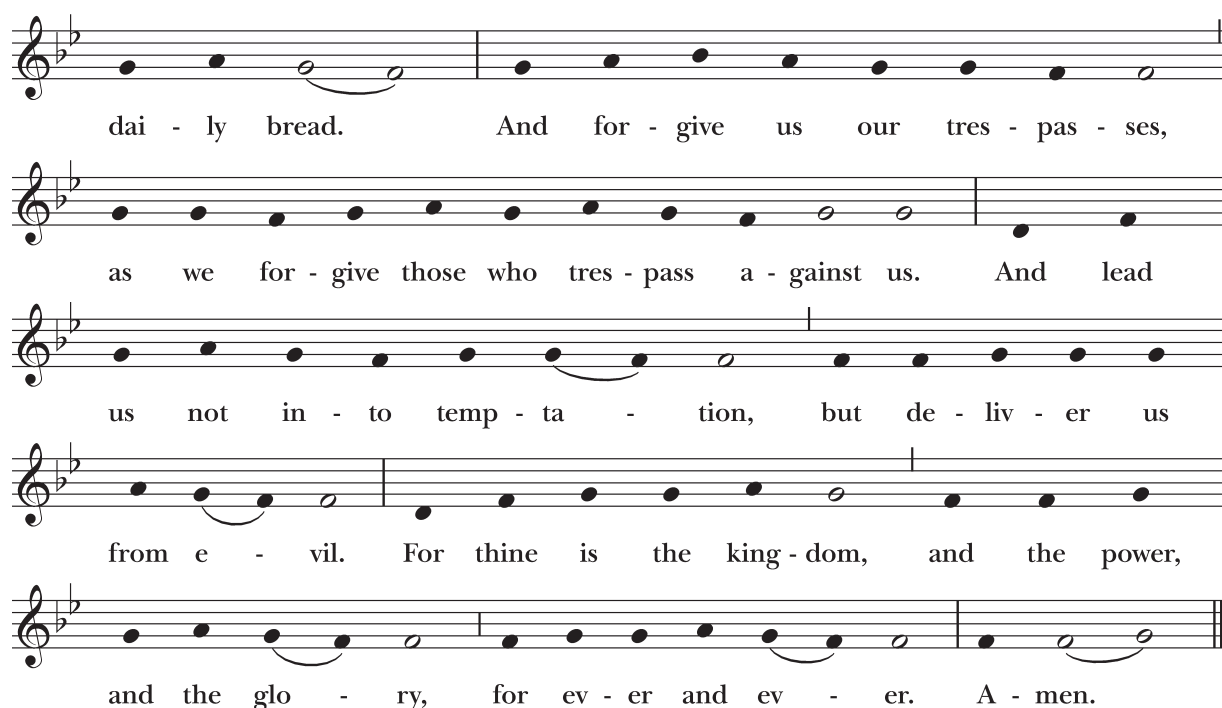
Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed



be thy Name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our



Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944). Setting: © Church Publishing Inc.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

Everyone is welcome to come forward at this time. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion in both bread and wine. Please do not dip your bread in the wine. Gluten-free bread is available; please notify the priest as they come to you.

If you are not baptized, or if you prefer, you may receive a blessing from the priest instead: cross your arms over your chest to indicate this. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms over your chest after receiving the bread. Please remain in place until the person next to you has received Communion.

THE COMMUNION PROPER

Dícite: Pusillánimes

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong, fear not;
behold your God will come and save you.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord alway

John Redford (c.1500–1547)

Rejoice in the Lord alway,
and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing:
but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen

THE COMMUNION HYMN • 527

Singing songs of expectation

Ton-y-Botel

THE COMMISSION OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

From time to time, a Eucharistic Visitor is sent forth with the Body of Christ to those unable to be present with us on Sundays.

N., in the name of Christ, 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.

We, who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Please kneel or stand, as able, for

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able, for

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE CLOSING HYMN • 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

THE VOLUNTARY

Fantasy in G minor

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

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*Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the service in Montgomery Hall,
through the double doors on the right side of the church.*

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TODAY'S MINISTERS *Celebrant:* The Rev'd Anne Wrider; *Deacon:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Subdeacon:* Jerad Mosbey; *Preacher:* Br. Will White, CMJ; *Assisting:* The Rev'd Kate Guistolise; *Organist:* Charlie Sega; *Choirmaster:* Dr. Christopher Windle; *Lectors:* Catherine Mendenhall, Margaret Wejksnora; *Intercessor:* Daniel Burke

A reminder that this public service may be photographed and/or videotaped and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear on the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media. Music usage licensing and agreements through Church Hymnal Corporation, New York, and OneLicense A-732906.

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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wed., Dec. 24: The Eve of the Nativity

We offer two Masses on Christmas Eve—a Family Mass at 4 p.m. and a Solemn High Mass at 10:30 p.m. with a carol sing starting at 10:10 p.m.

We will host a festive reception following the 10:30 service in Montgomery Hall. Please bring cookies, pies, and coffee cakes, or cheese and crackers to the kitchen prior to Mass.

Thu., Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Join us on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. for a service celebrating the birth of our Lord with scripture and music.

Tue., Jan. 6: The Feast of the Epiphany

Atonement will celebrate Epiphany with a Solemn High Mass at 7 p.m.

Please help us build our crèche for Christmas this year. Rick Velon is looking for volunteers to help set up our nativity after the 11:00 Mass on Sun., Dec. 21. Meet in the Mary Shrine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The nursery will be closed Dec. 14 through Jan. 4.

This week's forum: Hoping for the Apocalypse. We live in apocalyptic times; on that we can all agree. But what exactly does it mean? This forum will explore some historic moments of apocalyptic hope and their disappointment, ending with our own times. Can humans do anything to speed the coming apocalypse, or must we simply wait upon God's good pleasure? Facilitated by Barbara Newman.

***Skipping Christmas* book discussion Tuesday.** While author John Grisham is known for his legal thrillers, he wrote one satiric novel: *Skipping Christmas*. When published in 2001, the book quickly rose to No. 1 on the New York Times Best Seller List. Luther and Nora Krank, newly empty nesters, attempt to dodge the chaos of secular Christmas by booking a Caribbean cruise. The bewildered townspeople, feeling abandoned by neighbors they love, respond with hilarious, escalating salvos to goad the Krank's to fall in line. An unexpected event brings the community together at Christmas with joy and purpose and a new appreciation of the blessing they are to each other. While his is not a religious book, Grisham portrays the community spirit you hope to find in a loving Church.

Skipping Christmas is a short book and a quick read. It may be found at the library, Amazon, or Kindle. We'll meet in the Elizabethan Room on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to explore the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love amidst our human flaws while having fun. If you plan to join us, RSVP to Larry Lesperance (ll4852@aol.com). Please provide your name and phone number.

Youth to present Christmas pageant Dec. 21. Our Sunday school classes and youth group will present a Christmas pageant on Sun., Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you normally come to the 11:00 Mass, we encourage you to come early to enjoy this performance by our talented young parishioners. Please bring cookies and other snacks for our coffee hour that day.

Annual Advent drive for RefugeeOne. Our annual Advent donation drive begins today. This Advent season, we are collecting rice cookers, electric kettles, warm blankets, vacuums, sewing machines, and toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, menstrual pads, and laundry detergent) for RefugeeOne families in need. Our giving tree with gift tags that specify these different items is up in Montgomery Hall.

If you wish to donate, please take a tag from the tree for the item/s you'd like to bring in, and return the gift with the tag attached to the bins in the narthex by Dec. 21. Or visit on Amazon wishlist ([tinyurl.com/advent2026-refone](https://www.amazon.com/wishlist/ref=AHSR01679838?pf_rd_p=7e9d7c19-0f51-410d-9436-37192844e266)) and have your donation shipped right to the church. New items only, please!

Join the Care for Friends delivery day crew. Care for Friends Atonement would love your help to keep things running smoothly. If you're looking for a quick but meaningful way to make a difference, this is a great opportunity. We need your help for about one hour to receive and organize incoming food deliveries and move items (up to 40 lbs each) downstairs. Because delivery windows vary, we can't guarantee an exact arrival time. For these opportunities, we kindly ask volunteers to be on standby between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays and between 8 and 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday. If you live within a 10-minute distance of Atonement, you would just stay home until we call you that the truck has arrived. Your extra hands help us get food to our neighbors faster. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact Marcos (marcos@careforfriends.org).

Haven't made your pledge yet? We have collected our pledge cards for 2026, but you still have an opportunity to make your pledge if you haven't yet. Either bring your pledge card to church with you, or pledge online.

ONLINE GIVING The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



RESTROOMS are located in the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church. There is a changing table in each restroom.

SUPERVISED NURSERY CARE is available on the second floor of the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church.

To find out more about our ministries, visit atonementchicago.org or contact any of the staff listed below.

Clergy, Staff & Leadership

CLERGY AND STAFF

Bishop of Chicago: The Rt Rev'd Paula E. Clark; *Rector:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Director of Music:* Charlie Segal; *Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Director of Operations & Communications:* Matt Rodgers; *Ministries & Pastoral Care Coordinator:* Kate Mayer; *Liturgical Coordinator:* Br Ron Fox BSG; *Sexton:* Gerardo Guzman

PRIEST ASSOCIATES

The Rev'd Dr Maurice Charles, The Rev'd Robert S. Cristobal, The Rev'd Kate Guistolise, The Rev'd John Moulder, The Very Rev'd Joy Rogers, The Rev'd Thomas C. H. Scott, The Rev'd Norma Sutton, The Rev'd Anne Wridler

VESTRY

Wardens: Dave Beil, Charles Bonilla; *Treasurer:* Tim Coe; *Clerk:* Michael Waltz
Jennifer Ash, Evie Aadland Coe, Glen Gabert, Aaron Johnson, Sena Leikvold, Amanda Patrick, Charlene Reynolds, Br Will White CMJ, Alex Wyman

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS Low Mass 8 a.m., Family Mass 9 a.m., Solemn High Mass 11 a.m.

WEEKDAYS Monday and Friday 7:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon, Wednesday 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS The Holy Rosary 9:30 a.m., Healing Mass 10 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER Daily 8:30 a.m. *on Google Meet*

EVENING PRAYER Tuesday 5:30 p.m. *on Google Meet*

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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