



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 December 2023 · 9:00 a.m.

*The Chapel of the Good Shepherd*  
**ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE**

### Morning Prayer

#### The Opening Sentences

*The officiant begins with one or more of the following*

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *-Baruch 5:5*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *-Isaiah 45:8*

*The officiant then says*

God's bright glory will shine,  
**and everyone will see it.**

O Holy One, thank you for coming to us anew this day. Prepare our hearts and reawaken our love for you as we discern your call within us. May we join with you in making level the path for all people. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

**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.**

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.**

**Hymn** Come, thou long-expected Jesus

*Stuttgart*

**Psalms** 89:1-4, 19-26

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 First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Reader* A reading from Second Samuel.

Now 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

## Canticle

Canticle P (Revelation 22:12-17)

## The Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

*Reader* A reading from Paul's letter 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

## The Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

## The Sermon

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**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 Prayers of the People**

Hear our cry, O God.  
**And listen to our prayer.**  
Let us pray.

God of compassion,  
**Teach us to embody your love.**  
God of faithfulness,  
**Help us be constant in service.**  
God of all creation,  
**Give us compassion for all your children.**  
God of blessing,  
**hear our prayers.**

*Here, the people may add intercessions or thanksgivings.*  
God of love,  
**Draw our hearts to you.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **An Advent Collect**

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us to bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Announcements from Good Shepherd**

### **Announcements from St. John's**

### **Thanksgiving for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and other Milestones**

*Please use the chat feature to announce birthdays, anniversaries, or other milestones to be celebrated.*

**Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

### **The Dismissal**

Even in the waiting,  
**God is with us.**  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*-Romans 15:13*

**Hymn** Blest be the King whose coming

*Valet will ich der geben*



## Parish Announcements

### **Advent and Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE**

Find the complete Advent and Christmas schedule at [www.stjohns-laf.org/christmas](http://www.stjohns-laf.org/christmas).

### **End-of-Year Giving to St. John's**

Each week throughout the year contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with the offerings received on the following Sunday. December 24 - 25 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited in 2023. (Even though there will be an electronic deposit made on December 31, the deposit won't clear the bank until January 2.) Hand delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by December 22 as the office will be closed December 23 through January 1. If you are mailing your contribution, please allow at least seven to 10 days for delivery. Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by December 22.

### **Epiphany Pageant Sunday, January 7, at St. John's**

St. John's will host an Epiphany Pageant of lessons and hymns on Sunday, January 7. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All children ages 3 through the eighth grade are invited to participate. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, at St. John's. Please contact Amanda Yauney at [amanda@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:amanda@stjohns-laf.org) with any questions. More information will be forthcoming.

## Parish Prayer List

**St. John's Cycle of Prayer**— David Riesbeck, Paul & Jo Roberts, Stuart & Bonnie Robertson, Mary Anne Robinson, Jim & Carolyn Roth

**Parish Prayer List**—Rosemarie Goonewardene, Sue Eichhorn, Don Nead, Janet Huber, Ginny Hull, Pam Ogorzaly, Barbara Hess, Paul Lawson, Pequita Behrndt, Carolyn Speer, Carol Helgerman, John Howland, Alyce Dressler, John & Elizabeth Barrett, Bill McInerney, Jerry & Sandra, Terry, Lori, Martie, Joy, Ben, Judy, Rhianna, Josh, Chris, Rosemary, Deb, Paul, Marcus, Ben, Brent, Gabby, Kirsten, Pam, Wendell, Charles, Sara & Juni, Crystal, Gloria, Brad, and their families.

For the people of Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine; for hostages and all innocent civilians in harm's way; for peace in all places of conflict; for the victims of violence; and for repair, understanding, and healing across the world, in our nation, and within our communities.

**For those who have died**—For all who have died, including Gary, Douglas Campbell, Gary, and those buried in the St. John's Memorial Garden

**The leaders of our Communion**—Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; & Jennifer our Bishop

**St. John's Leadership, Staff, Clergy, & Seminarian**—The Vestry, Wardens, and Volunteer staff; Amanda, Eva, Michael, & Teresa; Jason, Bradley, & Carolin

**Our Ministry Partners**—The Diocese of Brasilia and their bishop Mauricio and the Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's, Mithon; The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and Holy Family, Fishers.

**This nation and all in authority**—Joe, our President; Eric, our Governor; and Tony and John, our mayors and Erin, mayor-elect

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## ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

### Worshipping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

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### Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop · Bradley Pace, Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate · Teresa Lohrman, Associate for Administration & Finance

Michael Bennett, Director of Music · Amanda Yauney, Director of Christian Education

Becky Dick, Sr. Warden · Bruce Johnson, Jr. Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.