

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

8AM Low Mass | 10AM Holy Mass with Hymns

# TRINITY CHURCH

*Worship in the Beauty of Holiness ✠ Service and Hospitality in the Name of Christ*

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

✠ Please stand and join us in singing the hymns, prayers which reflect on the theological themes of the day and season, and can be found in the blue hymnal in your pew, ordered by the numbers listed in the bulletin below. Service music can be found in the paper booklet in your pew.

#### OPENING HYMN

*Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

Hymn 68

INTROIT— *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious over anything: but in all manner of prayer, let your requests be made unto God. Ps. O Lord, you have favored your land, and brought back the captives of Jacob. You forgave the guilt of your people and covered all their sins. You averted all your rage; you turned back the heat of your anger.*

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

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

**KYRIE ELEISON** (*found in service music booklet*).

#### 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. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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 *Lauda, anima mea*

- 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!*

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St. James.

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.***

*All stand.*

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

**Celebrant:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**People:** *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Celebrant:** ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. 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. All may be seated.*

HOMILY

Fr. Raul, Rector

*All stand.*

## 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. Amen.*

## PRAYER BIDDINGS

✠ **The Church:** Pray for *Sarah*, called to be our next Archbishop of Canterbury and *Stephen*, Archbishop of York, for *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop, and *Carlye* our Bishop, and for all the Anglican Communion. Pray for *Leo*, Bishop of Rome, and our siblings in the Roman Church. Pray for *Bartholomew*, Patriarch of Constantinople, and our siblings in the Orthodox Churches. Pray for all of Christ's Holy Catholic Church. Pray for our Parish, our Wardens and Vestry, for *Gia*, our Director of Music, *Karen*, our Treasurer, *Lana*, our Administrator, and *Laura*, our Sexton, for all who serve and minister here and for all who come to this place to seek God. Pray for God's help as we seek to spread his Gospel, grow his Church, and serve him in our various ministries. In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil; Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for the Church of St. Luke and St. Mary in Hope/Belvedere. In a special way, let us hold in prayer the Diocese of Jerusalem & the Middle East and our Christian siblings in the Holy Land, Nigeria, and in every place where Christ's Church is persecuted.

✠ **The Nation & the World:** Pray for *Donald*, President of the United States, for the Congress, and for the Supreme Court, for *Phil* our Governor, and *Amy* our Mayor. Pray for peace and justice in our Nation, and for the relief of all who are vulnerable and afraid, for the hungry, the poor, and the captive. Pray for the peoples and nations of the world, especially for peace in Ukraine, Nigeria, Sudan, and the Middle East. Pray for the people of Palestine and for an end to this and all genocide. Pray for an end to all violence and war, that all peoples and nations may be gathered together under the banner of the Prince of Peace.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM III)

Father, we pray for your Holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*


Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Nicole, Martie, Michael, Jim, Bridget, Ed, Joanne, Lynette, Jana, Margie, Russ, Ed, Carol, Nancy, Bob, Debby, Michael, Deirdre, Mandy, Jacqui, Braden, Lydia, Tom, Rich, Bruce, Marilyn, Wayne and Joe;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

We pray for all service members, including Nick, Jason, Elizabeth, Quintin and Matt, and canines that are serving in this country's armed services.  
*That they may be shielded and guided, and safely brought home.*

We lift up in prayer Brian Scanlan who will celebrate his birthday December 17.  
*Crown his years with your goodness and fill his life with your joy.*

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving and supplication to you, lifting up our petitions and praises either silently or aloud. *A brief pause is held for the offering of prayers.*

Give to the departed eternal rest ;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*All kneel for the confession.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*ALL:* 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*

**Celebrant:**       ✠ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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.**

*All stand after the absolution.*

## THE PEACE

**Celebrant:**   The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:**       ***And also with you.***

*All may share with one another a sign of peace.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*All may be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*All stand.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**   *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

Hymn 76

*During the offertory hymn, you are invited to bring forward your offering for the support of Christ's Holy Church and place it in the plate in front of the altar.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer A

**Celebrant:**   The Lord be with you.

**People:**       ***And also with you.***

**Celebrant:**   Lift up your hearts.

**People:**       ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

**Celebrant:**   Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:**       ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

*The Celebrant continues,*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your 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 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** (*found in service music booklet*).

*All kneel as the Celebrant continues,*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*People & Celebrant:*      *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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Host and, after a moment of silence, continues,*

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:*      *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

## AGNUS DEI *(found in service music booklet).*

*The Celebrant says the following invitation:*

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.

## COMMUNION

✠ *All baptized Christians, regardless of their church affiliation, status, or standing, are invited to come forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament of Our Lord's Body and Blood.*

✠ *If you do not wish to or are not able to receive the Blessed Sacrament, you are welcome and invited to participate, regardless of denomination or religion, by coming forward with your arms crossed over your chest in order to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing from the Priest.  
You are always very welcome to inquire about  
receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.*

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*The people may kneel.*

Let us pray.

**Celebrant & People:** *Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most  
precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and  
for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members  
of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And  
now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To  
him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and  
for ever. Amen.*

## THE DOXOLOGY

**Celebrant & People:** *Glory to God, whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING OF ADVENT

## THE DISMISSAL

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
**People:** *Thanks be to God!*

*All stand.*

**CLOSING HYMN**    *Hark! the glad sound! The Savior comes*                      Hymn 72

## POSTLUDE

*After the closing hymn, our Director of Music will offer a musical voluntary for the congregation.*



## TRINITY CHURCH

55 George Street, Allendale, NJ

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[www.trinitynbc.org](http://www.trinitynbc.org)

The Rev. Fr. Raul E. AUSA, SCP, *Rector*

Gia Dreyer, *Director of Music*

Mrs. Lana Hoffert, *Parish Administrator*

Ms. Karen Roy, *Treasurer*

Ms. Laura AUSA, *Sexton*

Dr. Deborah Brown & Mrs. Gail Scanlan, *Wardens*

Mrs. Paralee Restivo & Mrs. Janet Zacco, *Vestry Class of 2026*

Mrs. Lynn Friedman & Mrs. Peg Patterson, *Vestry Class of 2027*

Mr. Geoff Ramsey & Mr. Spencer Yan, *Vestry Class of 2028*