



*A growing, faithful, inclusive,  
and caring community  
committed to the ministry  
and teachings of Jesus Christ.*

285 South 208 Street 402-289-4058  
[www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha](https://www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha)



**Advent 1**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite Two**  
Sunday, December 1, 2024  
10:30 AM


Please know that this service is being live-streamed through Facebook Live, and those attending in person may be visible during the service.

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations Come*

Kenneth Kosche

ENTRANCE HYMN *Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes (v. 1 & 2)*

H 72



1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal



pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

## LUCENARIA

*The candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as the Lucenaria is spoken.*

*Officiant:* Come and save us,\* O Lord God of hosts.

*People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts.

*Officiant:* Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

*People:* O Lord God of Hosts.

*Officiant:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Come and save us, O Lord God of Hosts.

*Officiant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord.

*People:* And grant us your salvation.

## LUCENARIA HYMN *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (v. 1 & 2) H 56

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - ell

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

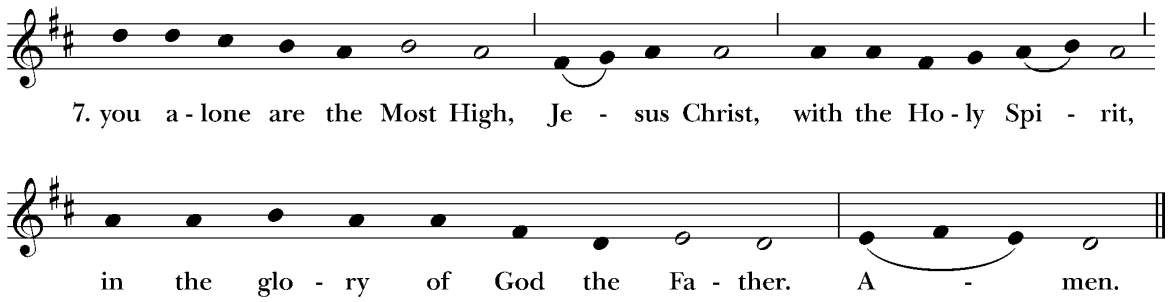
*People* You come to your people and set them free.

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant may say*

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be

saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O God, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

<sup>3</sup> Show me your ways, O God, \*  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>4</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>5</sup> Remember, O God, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>6</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O God.

<sup>7</sup> Gracious and upright are you; \*  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>8</sup> You guide the humble in doing right \*  
and teach your way to the lowly.

<sup>9</sup> All your paths are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.



# SEQUENCE HYMN *O Day of God Draw Nigh (v. 1-3)*

H 601

*All stand.*

1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power, come  
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid, the  
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure, and  
4 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of peace, that  
5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth, let

1 with thy time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.  
2 qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.  
3 fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.  
4 war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.  
5 there be light a - gain, and set thy judg - ments in the earth.

## GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

*All stand.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and

the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

<sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**

**Reverend Benedict Varnum**

## THE CREED

*All stand.*

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

*All remain standing.*

Kindred in Christ, may God strengthen our hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, “O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation.”

God our hope, increase in us love for one another that we may abound in your love. Keep your Church on the path of love and faithfulness.

*Silence*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

*Silence*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see you, the wisdom to prepare for you, and the faith to trust in you.

*Silence*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region—from city, village and town—together in a spirit of love and respect.

*Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence*

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers; We pray especially for: John, Recia, Jim, Judy, Joey, Sadie, Evelyn, Irene, Barbara, Marge, Jami, Susie, Marilyn, Donna, Norma, Elle, Brendan, Carolyn, Chris, Carol, Jill, Michael, Roxann, Chloe, Danette, Bob, Deb, Dick, Ben, Jean, Lorraine, William, Carl, Ann, Vicki, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

*Silence*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

***People: Be our hope and our salvation.***

***The Priest stands and says***

Lord Jesus Christ you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

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.

*The Priest stands and says*

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 PEACE

*All stand.*

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

*People*             And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Birthdays:** David Horn and Jim Mumgaard

### **Anniversaries:**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## The Holy Communion

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*Hebrews 13:15, 16*

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Comfort My People*

**Ian Callahan**

**Offered by Canterbury Choir**

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## The Great Thanksgiving

### SURSUM CORDA

*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	God be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 Christ 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**

*Holy, holy, holy (Folk/Pruner)*

**WLP 858**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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.” Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

### *Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

## **EPICLESIS**

### *The Celebrant continues*

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 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. *AMEN.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*People and 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM**

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

*People: Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.*

### **INVITATION**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

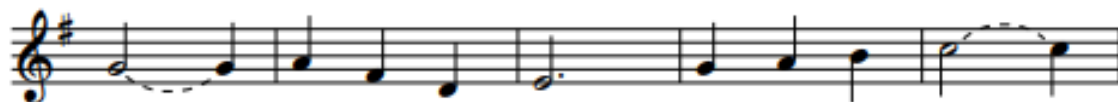
*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.  
[Amen.]

## COMMUNION HYMN *Christ Be Our Light* Words & Music by Dan Schutte



1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
2. hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
4. warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

©1993, 2011 OCP Publications  
 Used with permission One License (License #A-741779)

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

### *Celebrant and People*

Loving God,  
 we give you thanks  
 for restoring us in your image  
 and nourishing us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
 Now send us forth  
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
 that we may proclaim your love to the world  
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## BLESSING

### *The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Savior; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

*People, look East*

WLP 724



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the  
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be  
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall  
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the  
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may  
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has  
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -  
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.  
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of  
 the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

## POSTLUDE *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* Wilbur Held

From [riteplanning.com](http://riteplanning.com). Copyright © 2024 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.  
 Music used with permission from CCLI (License #1759835) and/or One License (License #A-741779)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **December Special Collection – Canned Food Tree**

Our Special Collection in December our Canned Food Drive. The canned goods tree provides for many of those in our community experiencing food insecurity. Be sure to stay today after the 10:30 service if you'd like to help put the tree together! The large cans are delivered to DEO (Downtown Episcopal Outreach) to serve with Wednesday lunches to the homeless, and small cans head to COPE (Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn) to be handed out during pantry pick ups.

Donations collected through December will go to purchase our cans next year, you may also mail in donations to the parish office with the Monthly Offering in the memo line through the 24th of December.

Our special collection in November brought in \$509.00 for the Fricke Episcopal Community Ministry (formerly the Fricke Episcopal Food Ministry). A big Thank You to everyone!

### **Last Day! COPE Adopt-a-Neighbor**

Today is the final day to drop off your gifts and wrapping paper for the COPE Adopt-A-Neighbor drive! We are pleased to announce that all available tags were taken (although not everyone signed the register telling us how took which tag) so we are hoping that we will have everyone's gifts collected by this evening.

Last year was a record year and we provided over 900 individuals with Christmas gifts. Tags are available on the table in the narthex. All gifts need to be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 1, 2024.**

## **Winter Weather Request**

With the arrival of winter (and potentially snow), we would like to remind all groups meeting at the church, whether in the Sanctuary, the Parish Hall or the Classrooms, to **please text Jay (402-200-8793) AT LEAST 2 HOURS before the scheduled start time if you are CANCELLING your meeting or event because of snow/inclement weather.** This will allow her to coordinate efforts with our snow removal company for maximum cost effectiveness and safety!

## **Wreath Sales Success!**

The small profits generated by our holiday wreath sales this year generated a total donation of proceeds of \$417 to Beyond Celiac for research and support. We're grateful that this annual tradition continues to both create cheerful welcomes to our homes and community, and supports ongoing care efforts in our world. Thanks to all who participated or helped organize this event!

## **Flower Fund**

Each year prior to Christmas, we ask for donations towards our Altar Flower Fund. This fund purchases the lovely greenery and flowers for the Christmas season as well as the flowers that adorn the altar throughout the year.

Special envelopes are on the table in the narthex near the bulletins for you to use to remember loved ones or give thanks for your blessings. Please return these to the church office by **December 18** so we have time to add the names of remembered loved ones or thanksgivings being celebrated to our Christmas Eve Bulletin.

## **Church Family Dinner & St. Nicholas Visit Wednesday, December 4, 6:00 PM**

We will provide turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy and rolls. Please bring a holiday side (last names beginning with A-K) or dessert (last names ending L-Z) to share, or consider a good will offering. We will also be having a special visit and short presentation from St. Nick, so be sure to bring family and friends to join in the fun!

## **Seeking Vendors for Magdalene Market!**

Join us for St. Augustine's 2nd Annual Magdalene Market!

**December 8, 2024 from 9:30 am-4:00 pm.** Be sure to make your list and check it twice! You'll find gifts for all ages at our handmade craft fair! We are looking for vendors and shoppers! All booth proceeds and food/drink sales will be donated to Magdalene Omaha. Please go to our website to for more information and to register as a vendor! <http://www.sainta.net/magdalene-market.html>

## **Invite your friends to our Magdalene Market!**

Please invite your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 8, from 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Craft Fair. This is a great place to pick up unique and special holiday gifts, especially for those hard to shop for people! We will be holding an abbreviated Coffee Hour in the Narthex after both services because there will be lunch-type food and beverages available for purchase in the Parish Hall. Proceeds from the food and beverage sales will go to benefit Magdalene Omaha!

## **Noon Bible Study December**

### **Tuesdays at Noon**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Tuesday Bible Study! Many who attended voiced gratitude that it connected to our Sunday morning lectionary (the schedule of weekly readings).

**December:** In December Fr. Ben and Mthr. Lisa will lead a study of some of the songs of the Bible that are used in Advent. On **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** we'll focus on the Old Testament songs and on the **10<sup>th</sup>** we'll focus on the New Testament songs.

### **Join Us for a Reverse Advent Calendar to Benefit COPE**

This year, the Daughters of the King invite you to celebrate Advent in a special way by participating in a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Instead of receiving a daily treat for yourself, we encourage you to give back by donating much-needed items to **COPE** (Christian Outreach Program of Elgin), which supports our neighbors in need.

Here's how it works:

### **Collect and Donate Items**

Starting **November 27**, gather items each day and place them in a box or bag. Each week, we'll focus on a different category of items that COPE needs the most:

- **Nov. 27 - Dec. 4:** Protein beans (e.g., garbanzo, pinto, kidney), canned meats (chicken, tuna, spam, sardines), and soups
- **Dec. 5 - 11:** Breakfast and baking items (cereal, pancake mix, syrup, canned fruit, jelly, baking mixes, oil, flour, sugar, spices, salt, and pepper)

- **Dec. 12 - 18:** Side dishes (noodle dishes, Hamburger Helper, rice bowls, mac and cheese, tomato products like diced tomatoes, sauce, and spaghetti sauce)
- **Dec. 19 - 24:** Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing, BBQ sauce), as well as personal care and home items (shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, spray cleaner, etc.)

You can bring your collected items to church during the **12 Days of Christmas**, leading up to our Epiphany celebration on **January 5**. **If you can't be here on January 5**, feel free to bring your donations early!

### **Why Participate?**

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, this is a chance to show Christ's love to others in our community. By participating in this Reverse Advent Calendar, we give thanks for our own blessings and help meet the essential needs of our neighbors.

**Let's fill our boxes and bags with love, hope, and generosity this Advent season.** We look forward to celebrating Epiphany together as we deliver our donations to COPE in early January.

### **Announcing The Faces of St. A's Social Media Project**

Vestry is working on a social media project to connect visitors on our Facebook page with testimonials from our parish. We're calling it "faces of Saint A's" and want to share a picture and a short reflection from as many people as are willing to participate. We think that increasing visibility of the stories of people who attend Saint A's might encourage potential guests to envision themselves at our church. If they connect with a story or a face, they might imagine, "hey, maybe I can see myself there too!"

We'll begin posting these in November in the spirit of thankfulness for our parish. The hope is that we might catch the attention of folks who are searching for where they might attend holiday services.

Would you be willing to provide a photo and a short blurb that we can share online? You can answer one of the following questions 1.) Why did you start going to St. A's? 2.) What do you enjoy most about St. A's? 3.) What are you most thankful for about our parish?

You only need to answer one question, and it can be as short as a couple of sentences or a bit longer if you're wordy like me. We're thinking 300 words or less.

Thank you for being willing to share your story and perhaps even encourage someone who is looking for belonging to come check us out!

### **Epiphany Pageant Performers!**

We are thrilled to announce a heartwarming opportunity for families at St. Augustine of Canterbury to come together in joyful celebration during our no rehearsal pageant on **Sunday, January 7, at the 10:30 service**. This inclusive event warmly invites all children to embrace their creativity and imagination by stepping into the beloved roles of Mary, the Magi, shepherds, animals, angels, and more, while older youth will have the special opportunity to read. With only the readers speaking, all other participants will process to the front of the church, bringing to life the story. We encourage parents to confirm their child's participation as soon as possible, to ensure they have a proper costume available that day. We look forward to celebrating this beautiful moment of worship together during the Christmas Season.

## Advent at St Augustine's

The weeks before Christmas are the season of Advent, as we await the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas. Here are some activities we'll have this Advent Season.

**Sunday, 11/24: Advent Wreaths.** A chance to make a wreath with Advent Candles for use at home. Mother Lisa is preparing brief prayers for home use with these to make it a personal or family activity.

**Sunday, 12/1: Greening of the Church.** Our annual "Decking of the Halls" includes greenery throughout the sanctuary, Narthex (entryway), and Parish Hall, along with the building of our **Canned Good Christmas Tree**, which is made from food items that we make a sign of through the season, then donate to local pantries in the winter month of January.

**Reverse Advent Calendar:** our Daughters of the King chapter is challenging us to "put something in each day" to an Advent container — watch for their separate announcement!

**Sunday, 12/15: Lessons and Carols — COMBINED 9:30 SERVICE.** As we near Christmas, this service involves readings from scripture and seasonal carol music to help prepare us for the arrival of Christmas.

**Sunday, 12/15: Blue Christmas, 3:00 pm.** The holiday season can be a time of really remembering loved ones who have died; the Blue Christmas service involves readings from scripture and other sources, and a chance to gather in support of loved ones and one another. We light vigil candles in memory of them. This can be a meaningful service to invite a friend to attend as they remember a loved one.

**Sunday, 12/22: Festival of Preaching — COMBINED 9:30 SERVICE.** This is an opportunity to hear brief reflections from all of our

parish clergy on the Magnificat, Mary's song about the coming of Jesus into the world and the promise of a changed and just world to come. Mother Lisa Aguilar, Father Ben Varnum, Deacon Rebecca Smith, Deacon Dave Holmquist, Mother Ruth Tomlinson, and Father Bob Kem will each offer brief reflections.

### **Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 12/24:**

- **3:00 Eucharist.** Our Praise Band will lead carols as we celebrate Christmas Eve at 3 pm. This service will be streamed online for those who wish to join or view it later. These services include Christmas music, a Christmas sermon by Mother Lisa, and a chance to sing the Candlelit Carol, Silent Night.
- **10:30 Hymn Sing.** As we gather before the late service, there is a chance to gather and sing from even more of our carols.
- **11:00 Late Night Mass.** A Christmas tradition in many churches, this service of worship starts at 11 pm and takes us to midnight and the arrival of Christmas itself, with music on the organ and the singing of carols beforehand.

### **Sunday, 12/29 — Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am**

#### **From your church Treasurer - 2025 is just around the corner!!**

As mentioned in our 2025 Stewardship letter this year, we started 2024 with a projected deficit budget. As there have been some inquiries as to how much of a deficit we projected, it was a negative (\$31,338.93). We have been working hard all year to keep our expenses down where possible but are relying heavily on pledge income being completely fulfilled to keep that deficit as low as possible. We have had wonderful regular non-pledge, plate and even rental income this year which will help bring that deficit down as well.



So, having said all that, have you thought about completing your 2024 operating and/or building loan pledge, prepaying your 2025 pledge or just making that additional contribution to St. Augustine's for tax purposes? In order for you to be able to deduct your charitable contribution on your 2024 tax return, all money must be deposited by December 31, 2024.

Considering holidays and office closures, we have some options for you and deadlines to consider.

If you want to use our PayPal system via [www.sainta.net](http://www.sainta.net), you need to create your transfer no later than **December 23**, as it takes 2-3 business days to reach our account after we initiate your transfer on our end.

**If you are paying by check, please make sure it reaches the office by December 30.**

If you need to know your pledge balance for 2024, please contact Jay Hammond, our Parish Administrator at 402-289-4058 or [parish@sainta.net](mailto:parish@sainta.net) as she has all the updated information. Thank you for working with us to meet our deadlines and to make the end of the year a smooth transition into 2025!!

## **Seeking Nominations for Parish Offices**

At our upcoming parish Annual Meeting (January 26th, 2025, after a combined 9:30 am worship service), we will elect various parish offices. Presently, both our Junior and Senior Warden plan to remain in their roles (which are nominated annually by the rector). We expect to have need of nominating:

- One Vestry Seat concluding after 2026 (monthly vestry meetings; official parish board; 2 years)
- Three Vestry Seats concluding after 2027 (monthly vestry meetings; official parish board; 3 years)
- One Legacy Society Director (quarterly check-ins on our portfolio; occasional communication about our Legacy Society; 3 year term)

Our outgoing Vestry class — Ali Threlkeld, Mary Jane Smith, and Pat Zimmerman — will serve as our nominating committee, or nominations may be made directly to Fr Ben. Fr Ben will confirm that each nominee is Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church, and that the nominee wishes to stand for election to the relevant seat. For more information about our nominations process or the roles of these parish offices, please contact Fr Ben.

## November Vestry Notes

The Vestry (our parish board) met on November 25th. They reviewed monthly financials and the initial broad estimates of both our stewardship drive and our 2025 expenses. They heard verbal reports from Barb Hall (Parish Life Co-Chair) and Jim Keepers (Garden Steward) regarding ongoing projects — both noted the need for more communication about volunteer opportunities for these ministries, and the Vestry later identified this as a priority for communication to new members at the planned January 26th Annual Meeting, February 9th new member brunch, and April 4<sup>th</sup> new member dinner, as well as ongoing communications. Parish office nominations to date were reviewed, as were ongoing vestry projects, including the "Thankful for St A's" testimonials and a parish info tri-fold to be available by the Magdalene Craft Fair on Dec 8th. The vestry has accepted the resignation of Carrye Fassero for the remainder of her term and thanks her for her work; that open seat will be available at the coming annual meeting as well. The vestry also reviewed the Winter calendar and some 2025 timing prospects involved with a sabbatical leave for Fr Ben (postponed since covid) and Mtr Lisa's various employment dates.

The December Vestry meeting has been set for **Sunday, December 15th**, after the combined worship service of Lessons and Carols. This meeting will formally set the budget for 2025 and identify specific planning needs for the parish annual meeting. For Vestry questions or to request an addition to the Vestry agenda, please contact Fr Ben or Pam Wright (our senior warden) between meetings.

## Save The Date

<b>Sunday, Dec. 1</b>	<b>Greening of the Church Canned Tree Set-up</b>
<b>Monday, Dec. 2</b>	<b>Daughters of the King</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 3</b>	<b>Noon Bible Study</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 4</b>	<b>St. Nick Visits St. A's Wednesday Family Dinner Joyful Noise Rehearsal Canterbury Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 5</b>	<b>Sacred Ground</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 6</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 8</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Magdalene Holiday Market</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 10</b>	<b>Noon Bible Study</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 11</b>	<b>Youth Cookie Making Party Joyful Noise Rehearsal Canterbury Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 13</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 14</b>	<b>National Wreaths Across America</b>

*Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany Events*

<b>Sunday, December 1</b>	<b>Greening of the Church Canned Food Tree</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 4</b>	<b>St. Nick Visits St. A's!</b>
<b>Sunday, December 8</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Magdalene Holiday Market</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 11</b>	<b>Youth Cookie Making Party</b>
<b>Saturday, December 14</b>	<b>National Wreaths Across America</b>
<b>Sunday, December 15</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Combined Service @ 9:30 AM Blue Christmas Service @ 3:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, December 22</b>	<b>Festival of Preaching Combined Service @ 9:30 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services @ 3:00 PM &amp; 11:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, January 5</b>	<b>Feast of Epiphany Celebrated</b>
<b>Sunday, January 26</b>	<b>Annual Meeting after a Combined Service @ 9:30 AM</b>



<b>Ministers of the Day</b>	<b>This Week 12/01/2024</b>	<b>Next Week 12/08/2024</b>
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise Band	Joyful Noise Band
Musicians 10:30	Dirk Lindner	Dirk Lindner
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Pam Wright	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Cash Stubbendieck Truman Stubbendieck Josie Aguilar	Danica Suhr Gage Suhr Nathan Pasko
10:30 am Greeter:	Mary Amador	Mary Amador
8:30 am Lector:	Alan Freiberg	Chris Moynihan
10:30 am Lector	Jean Lahti	Pam Wright
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Mary Jane Smith	Judy Tomanek
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Barb DiGiovanni	Carol Ott
A/V Tech 8 :30 am	Rich Hill	Dave Wright
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Joe Threlkeld Erin Vest	Dave Wright Joe Threlkeld