

St. Stanislaus Cathedral

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

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December 21, 2025 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *Offertory in Eb Major*

Alexandre Guilmant

Prayer Before Holy Mass (please rise)

My dear God and loving Father, as I participate in this Holy Mass, may Jesus fill me with His holy grace when I open my heart to Him in sincere prayer. May the sacraments I will receive, the prayers that I will say and the hymns that I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do. May the Holy Communion that I will receive give me strength, so that I may share faith, hope and love with the people I will meet. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

C: "Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord. **R: Who made heaven and earth.**

C: Lord hear our prayer. **R: And let our cry come to you.**

C: The Lord be with you. **R: And also with you.**

READER: *In the Fourth Week of Advent, we consider Mary's trust in God's promise, her joy in His goodness to her. We ask, "Am I ready to receive and celebrate the coming of the Son of God?" We have considered our relationships, our love of God and God's love for us, and we have responded with an awakened concern for the needs of others. Now we may echo*

Mary's words: "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit finds joy in God my Savior."

C: Almighty and loving God, soon the whole world will celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus. Even as we rejoice in our remembrance of His birth at Bethlehem, we find greater comfort in His promise to come again. May our preparations for this wondrous season remain with us, increase in us, and become as much a part of us as our breathing and our heartbeat. Then, may we say, "Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready." **R: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 19 *Hail, O Blessed Mary*

Hail, O blessed Mary, heaven's beautiful lily;
For our God has favored you, Mother of all mercy,
Through the birth of your dear Son, who would bring redemption.

Mary, you were favored, graced beyond the angels,
Maid above all maidens, holiest of women.
Pray for us, O blessed one, Mother of God's own true Son.

Mother, you were chosen, blest among all women,
By the God of heaven, Author of salvation,
Hope of all who on you call. Pray, O Mother, for us all.

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INTROIT

John 11:27; Psalm 90:2

C: Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world. **R: Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity You are God.** C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE Advent Kyrie (based on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Father, speak Your precious Word to us, that we may celebrate the coming of Your Son with joy. He has come, He is in our midst and He will come again. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL - *Traditional Mass*


Sirach 43:30, 38

C: Awesome indeed is the Lord's majesty, and wonderful is His power. **R: More than this we need not add; let the last word be, He is all in all!**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - *Contemporary Mass*

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

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R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

R. (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

Revelation 22:16

W. H. Monk, arr. Elfman



C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. C: I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star. R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decide to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

This is the gospel of the Lord. R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT *Advent Prayer*

Holy Spirit, make me see all His coming means for me.
Take the gifts of Christ, I pray, show them to my heart today. Amen.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - *Contemporary Mass*

R: Lord hear our prayer.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

OFFERTORY VERSE

1 Timothy 1:15

This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

OFFERTORY HYMN (8:00) 29 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the world Thou art.
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (9:30) *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Hal H. Hopson

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!
Oh, sing a joyful song. Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!

The Cathedral Chorale

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, we set before You bread and wine by which we offer ourselves to You, and through which You give Your Son to us. Help us to grow in Your service that we may be a worthy home for Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Proulx

CANON ~

THE LORDS PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Elfman

POST-COMMUNION HYMN 15 *From Heav'n a Voice* (1, 3, 4, 5)

From heav'n a voice comes down to earth; a star foretells the Savior's birth.
It shines through darkness, sin, and grief, and brings to mankind's soul relief.

Our fathers heard the tale of old; the prophet's words had long foretold
That God would come so man might be rescued from death eternally.

O realms of earth, come forth, rejoice! God leaves His heav'nly throne by choice.
He comes to earth, this lowly place, with mercy and unspoken grace.

Come and rejoice, ye saints above, and all who sorrow, feel His love.
All ye distressed who live in fear, the Savior of the world is near.

COMMUNION VERSE

Psalm 68:20

Blessed be the Lord, day by day, God, our salvation, Who carries us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed are You, God our Father, for You sent Your Son into this world to save us. We receive Him in the Holy Eucharist and look forward to the day when He will come again in glory. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING (please kneel)

DISMISSAL

C: Let us bless the Lord. **R: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer After Holy Mass (please remain kneeling)

I am grateful to You, Lord, that I was able to come to church and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. I thank You for receiving Your gracious pardon, Your instruction and teaching through Your Word, and Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion. May Your sacraments continue to strengthen and help me to be faithful to You and Your Church. Help me to face all the challenges of life on my journey to Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 32 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (1, 5, 6)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads to Thee, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

POSTLUDE *Fugue in E minor*

J. S. Bach