



LOVE *at the* CORE.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023 8 a.m.



simplify



✻ THE HOLY EUCHARIST ✻

On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world. At the sound of the bell, all stand.

In Procession, Hymn 82 (*Stanzas 1 -2*)

“Of the Father’s love begotten”

Divinum mysterium

✻ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ✻

Celebrant Blessed be God.

People Forever and ever. Amen.

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 The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence.

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.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

Reader A reading from the letter of St. Paul 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

Song of Mary, *Magnificat*

All My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great
things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise
of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All sit.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera

A period of silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

All 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.

Prayers of the People

Leader Holy One, simplify our lives, that we might find time for you.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

Leader We pray for peace. Peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in all areas torn apart by war. Grant us your peace.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

Leader We pray for all who suffer: the sick, the lonely, those who struggle with poverty, grief or loneliness.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, that they might find wisdom and strength to meet the days ahead.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

Leader We pray for all who have died. May they find rest in your presence.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

Leader We give thanks for the gift of this congregation, this nation, for our friends, family and all those who we love and especially for the precious gift of life itself.

People Quiet our hearts, O Lord, and come among us.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

All remain standing or kneel as able.

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

Silence.

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.

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

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Greet one another with the peace of Jesus.

Welcome and Announcements



As the altar is prepared for Communion, please place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed. You may also give by texting jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. Or use the QR code to give online. Thank you for your generosity.

∞ THE HOLY COMMUNION ∞

Hymn 380 (*Stanza 3*)

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”
Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People 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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

Sanctus (*Sung three times*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart
WLP 785

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
heart pours out my praise to - you; you are ho - ly, Lord.

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord! As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with John and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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

All 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.

Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant 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.

All baptized people are welcome to receive communion. Please let clergy know if you would like a gluten free wafer. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by folding your arms across your chest. If you like to receive communion and are unable to come to the altar, please ask an usher for assistance. You are also invited to receive prayers in our chapel to the left of the altar.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

Blessing

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

All stand.

In Procession, Hymn 82 (*Stanzas 3-4*)

“Of the Father’s love begotten”
Divinum mysterium

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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Join us at the Coffee Hour following this service and stay for the Christmas Pageant
“The Glorious Impossible” at 10 a.m.
The story of the Nativity for all ages.

We invite you to return this evening to celebrate the Eve of the Nativity a 4, 6, or 11* p.m.
Incense will be used at 11 p.m.

Two more opportunities to celebrate the Christmas season at St. John’s Cathedral:

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, preaching
10 a.m.*

New Year’s Eve

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

5 p.m. *

Champagne Reception following in Taliaferro Hall

*These services will be livestreamed on our website
<https://www.jaxcathedral.org/st-johns-live/>

∞ LOVE AT THE CORE ∞

Love at the Core is our motto; it refers to the heart of who we are. For nearly 200 years, St John's Cathedral has sought to lead people in worship and community service here in the urban core of Jacksonville. We believe that through beauty, art, and worship we can draw people into community to experience God's love and serve those in need. We are a diverse congregation that welcomes all people. You are welcome to learn about the love of Jesus with us.

Our Clergy



**The Very Rev.
Kate Moorehead Carroll**
Dean



**The Rev.
Mark S. Anderson**
Subdean



**The Rev.
Eric Kahl**
Director of the Center for
Prayer and Spirituality



The Rev. Gee Alexander
Associate Priest for
Pastoral Care



**The Rev. Dr.
Linda Privitera**
Associate Priest



The Rev. Saundra Kidd
Deacon for Pastoral Care
and Outreach

Our Vestry

Steve Busey, Chancellor
Charles Winney, Treasurer

Martha Cox, Senior Warden
Patrick Kimball, Junior Warden

Donna Walker Bell, Chris Collinsworth, Barbara Fiser, Glenn Guiler, Paige Hakimian,
Scott V. Hill, Lewis Hunt, Will Ketchum, Lloyd Lewis, Lisa McKenna, Meg Sacks



*Poinsettias at the
Christmas Altar*

are given in loving memory of

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lillian & William Armsby | Andy Lavender |
| Sophia & Jim Bolling | Edward & Dorothy Lee |
| David Burrell | John Leonard |
| Tom Burrell | Jan Lott |
| Dick Bush | Nancy C. Mason |
| Isabella Carrington | Harry T. Mason |
| Jean Carrington Cook | Stephen C. Mason |
| Olive Smith Cook | Clarence & Edith Osborn |
| Thomas Corey, Jr. | Oliver & Evelyn Oswalt |
| Melvin & Fay Doiron | Ron Pinkerton |
| George Dorion | Robby Pinkerton |
| Todd Fischer | Artis & Bertha Pinkerton |
| Cecil B. Fisher | Eugene & Joyce Schrader |
| Diane Friedman | Cynthia Searcy |
| The people we have lost | Marie Sefton |
| Betty & Curly Gordon | Wilmer Sefton |
| Tayloe & Ed Graves | Edith Hulsey Shurley |
| Larry & Mabrine Griswold | Fletcher R. Shurley |
| Bruce Hardman | Douglas Tandy |
| James & Marzelle Harmon | Hannella Tandy |
| Dorothy Haussman | Terrence Tandy |
| Ted Haussman, Sr. | Janice Beckwith-Tandy |
| Col. Jim & Adele Higgins | Rolf Towe |
| Curtis Hill | Terri Bachara Tucker |
| Enrique Iguina | Patty Waidner |
| Sandy Jackson | Calvin T. Watts |
| Bobby Jackson | Mary Laverne Watts |
| Carol Jennings | Alfred "Sis" Williams |
| Douglas Jennings | George "Sue" Williams |
| John Jordan | Kate Willis |
| Jimmy Judge | Jack Willis |
| Jean F. Kasten | Wanda Willis |
| Sue & Keith Kirwan | Fred & Jean Wilson |
| Diana Kovarik | James Horner Winston |



Poinsettias at the Christmas Altar

are given in thanksgiving for

The Cathedral Clergy and Staff
Marie Tarver, Anice Brown, Debbie Scroggins, and Corey Tandy

The Cathedral Choir
Tim Tuller and his gift of music

Lorraine Lewis Corey

The Doiron's Children and their families:
Leslie, Roger & Margo Clark and Laura, Kenny, Savannah & James Kwaak
Pam & David Searcy's Children: Paige & John
Pam & David Searcy's parents: Nina & John

∞ INFORMATION ∞

FOR VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

Welcome! We're glad you've joined us today. To learn more about membership, baptism, confirmation or to receive emails about upcoming events, fill out a connection card found in the pew and hand it to an usher or clergy. Or, visit jaxcathedral.org/welcome and fill out a card online.

HAKIMIAN NURSERY

Our nursery is staffed with trained caregivers for infants and toddlers up to 3 years old every Sunday from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Christian formation for ages 4 through 12th grade is offered at 10 a.m. All are invited to meet in the back of the church to process behind the choir down the aisle and out to their various classrooms. We join the 10 a.m. service at the time of The Peace.

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER

The prayer line is always open. Please let us know what you need and how we can pray for you. Many parishioners appreciate our clergy being with them prior to surgery. If you are having a medical procedure and would like pre-op prayers, please call the church office (904) 356-5507.

If you are calling after hours, press 4, and your call will be routed to a member of the clergy. You may also choose the prayer request option under "Contact" on our website for a quick and confidential response.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE & GIFT SHOP

Hours: Sunday - 9 a.m. to Noon
Monday - Thursday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CONTACT US

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For the latest news and events at the Cathedral, visit our website (jaxcathedral.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@jaxcathedral). On the website, you may subscribe to our newsletter.

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