



Emmanuel Church

The Episcopal Church on Mercer Island



John the Baptist in prison, visited by two disciples
Giovanni di Paolo
Tempera on panel, ca 1455

THE HOLY
EUCCHARIST
THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

WELCOME GUESTS & VISITORS



We are grateful that you have joined us!

Some notes that may be of help in getting to know us may be found on the inside back cover of this worship leaflet. All that you will need to take part in worship may be found here in this worship leaflet and in the blue Hymnal 1982.

Please let us know how we may better welcome you.

UPCOMING ...

Blue Christmas Service,
followed by 'soup &
sourdough' meal
December 18, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 p.m. Family Service
9:30 p.m. Anthems & Carols
10:00 p.m. 'Midnight Mass'

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

During Advent, we will be making use of our bells during the time leading up to worship.

8:00 a.m. *The People stand as the Ministers enter*

10:00 a.m. *The Celebrant bids the People to stand as able.*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *Said by all*

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.

8:00 AM **KYRIE ELEISON** *Said by all.*

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

10:00 AM **PROCESSION** – Hymnal 1982 #65 “Prepare the way, O Zion”

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God 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.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES – Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector A reading from the Book of 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.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM – 146:4-9

8:00 Read Responsively, 10:00 Sung by the Choir

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!

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES – James 5:7-10

Lector A reading from the Letter of 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.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL – Hymnal 1982, #76 “On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry”

THE HOLY GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2-11

All standing, the Minister says to the People

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to 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.”

After the Gospel the Minister says

The Gospel of our Savior.

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

THE SERMON The Reverend Patrick Raymond

THE NICENE CREED

Enriching Our Worship

All stand, as able, and say together

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader Holy God, beginning and end of all that is or shall be, hear our prayers as we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Silence.*

People Give hope to the powerless and humility to the powerful. Turn all hearts to peace and forgiveness wherever there is estrangement, division or violence. *Silence.* Holy God:
Be revealed in our justice and wisdom.

Leader Show your mercy and justice in us and through the witness of all in your Church throughout the world. *Silence.* Holy God:

People **Be revealed in our words and actions.**

Leader We pray for all in need: travelers, refugees, the lonely or discouraged, the hungry and homeless, the sick and the suffering. *Silence.* Holy God:

People **Be revealed in our compassion and care for others.**

Leader Let us remember in particular at this time those for whom our prayers have been asked, including _____, and others we now name aloud or remember silently.

Leader We remember all who have died, including _____, and others we now name aloud or remember silently. [*pause*]

People We give thanks for all who have gone before us and whose witness has inspired and sustained our faith. *Silence.* Holy God:

Be revealed in our hope and perseverance.

The Celebrant may add the following or another Collect.

THE CONFESSION

After a brief silence, the Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

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.

ABSOLUTION

Celebrant 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.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *Please share the Peace of Christ with others.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Part of our spiritual practice as Christians is to support the mission of the church through financial donations. You may give in the plate or online using PayPal. To donate via PayPal, simply scan this QR code and follow the instructions.



Information on receiving Communion may be found on page 15.

10:00 OFFERTORY ANTHEM – “”

Roger Summers

10:00 OFFERTORY HYMN – Hymnal 1982, #640 “Watchman, tell us of the night”

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, Expanded Language

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

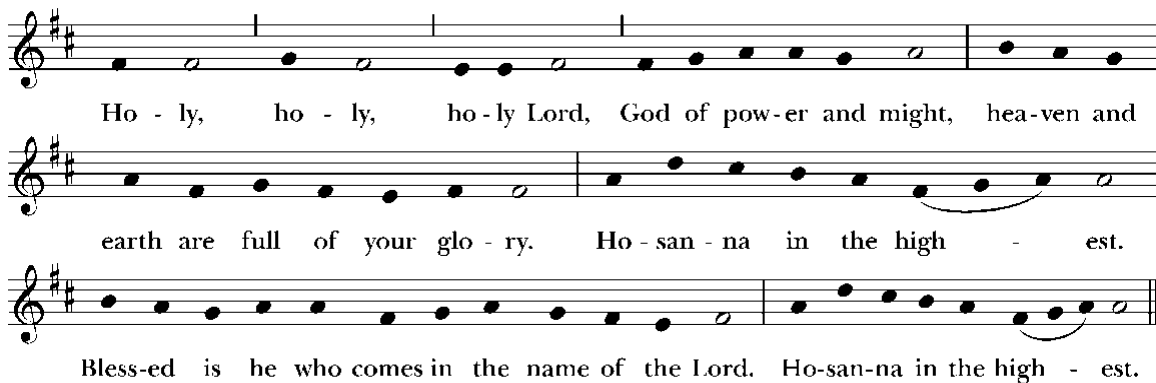
Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

8:00

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

10:00



Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker and of all.

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

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Celebrant and People Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept after which the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **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 are welcome to participate in communion at Emmanuel. Primarily our communion takes place at the altar rail. You can stand or kneel. If you want to abstain from the bread or wine, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. If the steps to the altar rail present a challenge for you, you may stand at the bottom of the stairs, or ask an usher to have communion brought to you in your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN – Hymnal 1982, #75 “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER. *Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND GENERAL THANKSGIVINGS

Those celebrating a birthday or anniversary are welcomed to come forward. Led by the Celebrant, all pray:

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 all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING *Said by the Celebrant, all responding ‘Amen’ after each portion.*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*

PROCESSION – Hymnal 1982, #429 “I’ll praise my maker while I’ve breath”

THE DISMISSAL *All respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY – “Savior of the Nations, Come”

J.S. Bach

Welcome Guests & Visitors

+ Welcome to the Episcopal Church. The mission of the Episcopal Church, as stated in our Book of Common Prayer, is “*to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.*” We seek to follow Jesus in loving and life-giving relationships with God, with one another, with all people, and with all God’s creation. Our worship, beliefs and practices are diverse and reflect influences from Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions as well as on going reflection and prayer about what it means to believe in and follow Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing world. We Episcopalians are also known as Anglicans, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion with origins and ongoing ties to the Church of England.

+ Welcome to Emmanuel Episcopal Church. We trace our history on Mercer Island to a first worship service in 1909 and to a prior church building, built in 1914, in an area of the island once known as East Seattle. We have met, worshiped, served at and gone forth in faith from the present church since 1959.

+ Welcome to Our Worship Today. The order for worship that we call the Holy Eucharist is printed on the following pages; hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982 or printed in the order of worship. We begin with the Liturgy of the Word: Bible readings, a sermon, an affirmation of faith, prayers, and greeting one another at the Peace. All this prepares us for the Eucharist itself — the word is derived from the biblical Greek word for thanksgiving. Here and elsewhere it may also be called Holy Communion, the Lord’s Supper or the Mass.

+ Welcome to Communion. The Real Presence of Christ in the blessed bread and wine is a primary belief in our Anglican tradition. Here at Emmanuel, any and all who are drawn to do so may receive Communion. Additional notes may be found at the appropriate place in today’s printed order of worship.

+ Welcome to Getting Around Here.

♦ **Our nursery and ministries with young children** are offered in various ways at various times. Please inquire with an usher, the clergy or other parents, or look for information on our website.

♦ **An accessible restroom** may be found across from the stairway outside the west doors of the narthex (the gathering area just beyond the doors of the church proper). Other restrooms may be found up the ramp and stairs at the east side of the narthex.

♦ **Hearing assistance devices**, with related instructions, may be found in and borrowed from a basket on a narthex table.

Please let us know how we may better welcome you.

Housekeeper

This is my little town,
My Bethlehem,
And here, if anywhere,
My Christ Child
Will be born.

I must begin
To go about my day--
Sweep out the inn,
Get fresh hay for the manger
And be sure
To leave my heart ajar
In case there may be travelers
From afar.

By Elizabeth Rooney, from
A Widening Light, 1984



Covenant for Our Common Life and Witness

We, the members, staff, and clergy of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, aspire to personally and collectively demonstrate and advocate the following principles in all of our relationships.

- 1. We Demonstrate Christ's Command to Love One Another**, treating all with generosity, kindness, and empathy. *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."* John 15:12
- 2. We Respect the Dignity of Every Person**, listening to one another and honoring differences.
Jesus said, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12
- 3. We Speak Truth in Love**, sharing our hopes, concerns, and perspectives in a spirit of collaboration.
"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." Ephesians 4:25
- 4. We Promptly Address Conflicts and Pursue Reconciliation**, whenever and with whomever it is needed, seeking to heal and restore broken relationships.
"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32
- 5. We Promote Unity**, acknowledging that we share a love for this community and its future.
"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3
- 6. We Practice Humility**, recognizing the needs, concerns and interests of others alongside our own.
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit." Philippians 2:3a. *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Micah 6:8
- 7. We Pray For Each Other, the Church, Our Community, and Our World.**
"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people." 1 Timothy 2:1

By way of this covenant, we seek to share in a parish community that reflects Christ's love and peace to all, where every person is valued and respected, and where we work together for the common good of the church, our community and our world.

Clergy and Staff: The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Interim Rector; Fred McIlroy, Director of Music;
Julene Levin, Parish Administrator; John Pritchard, Bookkeeper

2025 Emmanuel Vestry: Michael Spencer, Senior Warden; Janet Bell, Jon Fedele, Sandy Maloof, Leslie Moore,
Polly Ogden, Marcia Palk, Jeff Zantek; Sue Stiles, Treasurer. askvestry@emmanuelmi.org