

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King’s Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 He shall rule from sea to sea, *
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

I n those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,“ You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘ We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Gospeller

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Canon Adam Bucko,
Director of the Center for Spiritual Imagination

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 326

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor

Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Come, Lord Jesus.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 331

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

BCP 332

THE PEACE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP 340

The Presider says the Preface, and at the conclusion, all say

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

BCP 341

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP 341

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BCP 336

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 337

AGNUS DEI

BCP 337

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest as you come forward. Gluten free hosts are available.

Prayers for Healing and Anointing of the Sick will take place at the Baptistry for those who wish after receiving Communion as well as at the conclusion of the Mass.

At the end of Communion, all stand and join the Presider in saying

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 76 (stanzas 1, 2 & 5)

Winchester New

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Weekday Mass – *In the Cathedral* Tuesdays through Thursdays at noon.

Dean's Forum - Sunday, 10:15-11am in the Mercer Library

Our Nicea 2025 series continues this Sunday with a conversation on God the Holy Spirit facilitated by Fr. Eddie Alleyne and seminarian Shannon Whittaker.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals & Sign Up *December 7, 14, 20 & 21*

Rehearsals for this year’s 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant continue on Sundays in December, 10:15-11am, during Fellowship in Faith. To sign up, email Mo. Kate at ksalisbury@incarnationgc.org or fill out [this online form](#) to join the full cast dress rehearsal Saturday, December 20th, 10am-12 Noon. There's a part for every child!

Fellowship in Faith - Sundays, *10-11am at the Mercer School*

During Advent, children who are not rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Pageant are invited to create their own Christmas icons! Inspired by the colorful work of Ukrainian artist Nastja Paruta-Dashko, whose icons of Jesus with children were recently brought to the Cathedral by Director of Music Larry Tremsky, we’ll explore a different part of the Nativity story each week as we create our own works of sacred art.

Meditation and Contemplative Prayer – Mondays via zoom at 6:30pm see the Center for Spiritual Imagination website for links, as well as other upcoming events.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols – *Sunday, December 14 at 4PM.* The service is free and open to all. The full Cathedral Choirs will perform favorite and familiar carols in addition to some lesser-known works from around the world.

In Good Company with the Dean – This year, join the Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen, Dean of Long Island, for a new series of intimate evening gatherings across the Cathedral Close.

These relaxed, 90-minute conversations are open to all and will explore the questions of theology, Christian spirituality, and life in community that matter most today.

First Gathering: "Why We Talk About God" *Wednesday, December 17 6:30-8:00pm* / *See House* - Discover how theology lives not only in books but also in our shared stories and daily life. This opening conversation will be held at See House, the historic former residence of the bishops of Long Island, now home to cathedral and diocesan offices. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 30 participants. Register on Realm.

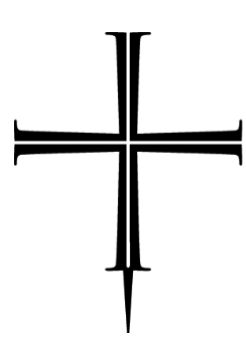
On Sunday, December 14, the masses are in memory of James Albertelli from Anthony and Alison Parks. "It is holy and wholesome to remember those who have died, for they are at rest in the arms of God."

Altar Flowers this week are given in loving memory of Michael M. O'Donald, Jr. by his parents, Michael and Mary.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, have mercy.



*From the Brooklyn Bridge to Montauk Point
A house of prayer for Long Island*



The Cathedral of the Incarnation

Garden City, New York
7 December 2025 at 8:00 AM
Traditional Mass

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Welcome to the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the historic Cathedral Church for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. Page numbers in this leaflet refer to the red **Book of Common Prayer** (BCP). The Holy Eucharist Rite I begins on page 323 of the BCP.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP page 323

SUMMARY OF THE LAW BCP page 324

KYRIE ELEISON BCP page 324

Presider Lord, have mercy upon us.
People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Presider Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**