

# GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



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## The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 • 5 p.m.

# Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- If you are a visitor or new attendee, we invite you to fill out a welcome card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate or complete the form online. Use this QR code to access the form.
- If you need a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. Instructions to connect via Bluetooth are on the back table.
- Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered, accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.



## Service Notes

- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (\*).
- Donations may be placed in the offering, made through the Cathedral website: [kccathedral.org](http://kccathedral.org), by scanning the QR code to the right or by texting "GIVEtoGHTC" to 73256. *Thank you for your generosity.*



## Serving Today

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Lector, Eucharistic Minister	Trish Lambert
Cantor	Dr. Kelli VanMeter
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher

# HOLY EUCHARIST

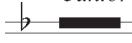

VOLUNTARY: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

settings by G.F. Kauffmann, Max Reger

## The Order for Evening

### \* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR LIGHT

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*Cantor*  *People* 

Light and peace, in Je - sus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God.

*The presider adds a prayer for light.*

### \* O GRACIOUS LIGHT *Phos hilaron*: 25



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

# The Word of God

## \* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Lector See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79

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Cantor Blessed be the Lord, the God of | Israel; \*  
he has come to his people | and set them free.

All **He has raised up for us a mighty | savior, \***  
**born of the house of | his servant David.**  
**Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our | enemies, \***  
**from the hands | of all who hate us.**  
**He promised to show mercy to our | fathers \***  
**and to remember | his holy covenant.**  
**This was the oath he swore to our father | Abraham, \***  
**to set us free from the | hands of our enemies,**  
**Free to worship him | without fear, \***  
**holy and righteous in his sight all the | days of our life.**  
**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the | Most High, \***  
**for you will go before the Lord | to prepare his way,**  
**To give his people knowledge of sal|vation \***  
**by the for|givenness of their sins.**  
**In the tender compassion of | our God \***  
**the dawn from on high | shall break upon us,**  
**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow | of death, \***  
**and to guide our feet into | the way of peace.**

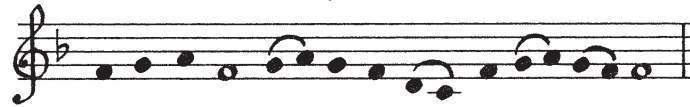
## Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

**Lector** I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

### \* ALLELUIA VERSE *Cantor; then People*



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*Cantor*



Prepare the way of the Lord, make his  paths straight;\* and all flesh shall see the salvation  of our God.

*All repeat the three alleluias.*

### \* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

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

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

**Gospeller** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

from *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary*

Intercessor Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go, that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Hear these prayers we offer as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those in civil authority: May they be guided by hope and not fear.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this faith community: Amid joys and sorrows, let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and the stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture your creation and ever proclaim its wonders.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. We especially pray for those on our Cathedral prayer list, and for any others you wish to name either silently or aloud,

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud,

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Presider Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guides us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

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

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.

Presider 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION PRAYER

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) 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* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE TRANSITION OF OUR NEXT BISHOP

All Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the election of our next Bishop, Amy. Watch over Amy, her husband Jared, and her children Elise, Jacob, and Woodrow as they prepare to leave friends, colleagues, and neighbors to join us here in the Diocese of West Missouri. Open our hearts to receive your inspiration and wisdom so that we may joyfully welcome them into our life and ministry in You. This we ask in grateful thanksgiving. AMEN.

## The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

\* OFFERTORY HYMN: 76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Celebrant* *People*  
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
 Lift up your hearts. 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.



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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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:

All

S124: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Presider

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,

All

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

Presider

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 [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; 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.

All

**AMEN.**

Presider

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

All

S119: The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
 be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
 dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

### Breaking of the Bread

Presider

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S161: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Presider            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.

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.  
For gluten-free bread, cross your hands palms down.  
For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.*

## \* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

## \* THE BLESSING

## \* DISMISSAL

*Following the dismissal,*

People              **Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN: 657 "Love divine, all loves excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hymnodol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

# Cathedral Prayer List

**Pray for:** Mary Sklar; Sherry and Randy Mueller; Melanie Boyd; Diego Garcia; Darvin Weaver; Ralph and Billie; D'angelo and Deondra; Kendal Van Scoyk; Kurt Brack; Sally Livengood; Betty Loy; Holiday Travelers; All impacted by recent hurricanes; Phineas Gitta; LaGreta Gitta; Anne Huston Hayes; All families affected by gun violence; Charlotte Colburn; Joyce Morrow; All those fighting cancer; Doyle White; Mike Barzee & Family; Jinny McCoy; Larry McMullen; Phyllis & James Shaffer; Bonita White; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; First Responders

**Comfort and Peace:** the family and friends of Donald Bradley; the family and friends of Robert Boehm; the family and friends of The Rev. Tim Murphy; the Welch and Immenschuh families; the family of Bennett Twenter; the family and friends of Judy Lafferty; the family and friends of Carl Schneider; all families affected by gun violence

**Pray for the Departed:** Donald Bradley; Gabriel Kney; Robert Boehm; The Rev. Tim Murphy; Joann Immenschuh; Bennett Twenter; Judy Lafferty; Carl Schneider; Jinny McCoy; for all those lost in war; for all who have died from gun violence

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Raytown; The Rev. Jeff Hurst, Rector; Education for Ministry

For the complete prayer list: [kccathedral.org/prayers](http://kccathedral.org/prayers)

To place a person on this prayer list, please contact Deacon Barbara Wegener, [bwegener@kccathedral.org](mailto:bwegener@kccathedral.org). Requests are held in prayer for 90 days.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### December 8

Bailey Darr

### December 10

Luca Janky

### December 12

Alex Ratcliff

### December 9

Nick Douthat  
Craig Heslop  
Meribeth Risebig

### December 11

Dani Valencia  
Mortensen

### December 13

Christopher Black  
Scott Courson  
Ty Gardner  
John Morrison

## Today's Flowers

are given to the Glory of God and ...

- in thanksgiving for my son, Brad McLeroy—Carolyn McLeroy
- in memory of Zan Crum—Jim Crum

Please contact the Cathedral office if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary: [jtoma@kccathedral.org](mailto:jtoma@kccathedral.org) or 816.474.8260.

Donations of any amount toward the weekly flowers can be given by anyone who wants to acknowledge special events or people in their lives.

See [kccathedral.org/flowers](http://kccathedral.org/flowers) for more information or contact Julie Toma, [jtoma@kccathedral.org](mailto:jtoma@kccathedral.org).



**Cathedral Staff:** The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. W. James Yazell, *Associate Priest*; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon*; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Associate Organist*; Clare Stern-Burbano, *College, Youth & Children's Minister*; Julie Toma, *Cathedral Administrator*; Melissa Kilpatrick, *Communications Coordinator*; Holly Campbell, *Events Coordinator*; Steve Berman, *Finance Coordinator*; Dr. Joan Bergstrom, *Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator*; Angie Graham, *Facility Manager*; Bianca Jackson, *Assistant Facility Manager*; The Very Rev. Peter J. DeVeau, *Dean Emeritus*; Canon John Schaefer, *Canon Musician Emeritus*

**The Vestry:** Steve Moore, *Senior Warden*, [smoore@rdm.law](mailto:smoore@rdm.law); Valerie Johnson, *Junior Warden*, [johnson\\_jb@hotmail.com](mailto:johnson_jb@hotmail.com); Chip Buckner, *Treasurer*; Blain Lagergren, *Clerk*; Julie Brogno; Sharon Cheers; Sara Copeland; Pat Decker; Nigel Jones; Paula Livingston-Lewis; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley; Michael Thomas

## Weekly Services

Sundays: 8 (in person) & 10:30 a.m. (in person/online)—Holy Eucharist; 5 p.m.—Order for Evening & Holy Eucharist/Choral Evensong (in person). Wednesdays: Noon—Noonday Prayer (online); 12:05 p.m. (in person)—Holy Eucharist.



# Socks & Gloves Drive

During the months of November and December, Outreach will be collecting warm socks and gloves for both men and women. These will be donated to Shelter KC at both the men's and women's centers.



## The Emergency Food Assistance PROGRAM

In partnership with St. Paul's on Main, we have been invited to a new volunteer opportunity once a month on Saturday mornings at St. Paul's from approximately 9:30 a.m. to noon. This is to assist with distribution of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program).

Upcoming TEFAP dates are December 21 and January 18. For additional information on TEFAP, please visit [kccathedral.org/outreach](http://kccathedral.org/outreach).

To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or [bwegener@kccathedral.org](mailto:bwegener@kccathedral.org).

## Tackling hunger, one meal at a time



Nourish KC and The Prospect are continuing the fight against food insecurity in our community! Together, they are rescuing fresh food, and serving up nutritious meals, to create long-lasting change in KC. You can make a real difference, one meal at a time. Whether you donate, volunteer, or spread the word, YOU can help us tackle hunger in KC! Let's feed hope together.

Here's easy ways you can help:

- **Donate.** Every dollar counts in providing meals and education for our community
- **Volunteer.** Lend a helping hand at our community kitchen or events
- **Support the Nook.** Grab your favorite coffee and help us fuel change @thenook\_kc
- **Catering Services.** Hosting a party? Let us do the cooking and your even becomes a force for good!

**Learn more:**

[nourishkc.org](http://nourishkc.org) • [theprospectkc.org](http://theprospectkc.org)

## Please support hurricane relief efforts



Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Episcopal Church of Cuba to respond to Hurricane Oscar, and the mid-October power grid failure that continues to impact the entire island.

PLEASE SUPPORT HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY EFFORTS



On October 18, following weeks of intermittent grid outages, ten million people lost power. On October 20, during the blackout, Hurricane Oscar made landfall, flooding and damaging the island's eastern side, and killing seven people. People in the Guantanamo and Baracoa areas had little warning that Oscar was coming because the ongoing power outages badly affected communication systems. Church leaders surveyed the impacted areas and found 82 homes had completely collapsed, 1300 had partially collapsed and over 100 families' appliances were destroyed or washed away.

In response to Hurricane Oscar and the ongoing power outages, Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Episcopal Church of Cuba to provide food, hygiene products, fans, rechargeable lamps and supplies for home repairs. Find out more at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org).

# Announcements

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 11:30 A.M.

## CITY COME AGAIN



Since 1982, William Jewell College has partnered with Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to present The City Come Again as a gift in music and word to Kansas City. This program features students and faculty presenting seasonal music, poetry, and more. This event is free.

## MINGLE AND MUNCH, SWEATERS AND SIPS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6-9 P.M.

You are invited to fellowship at the home of Kristen & Mathias Nichols in the KC northland. ALL ages welcome!

Bring a beverage and dish (appetizer or dessert) to share and wear your favorite fun holiday sweater/outfit.

RSVP at [kccathedral.org/advent](http://kccathedral.org/advent)



## Women's Lunch & Service Project

Saturday,  
December 14 • 11 a.m.

The women of GHTC are invited to help pack up food for children to have over the holiday break and treat bags for local school children. RSVP at [kccathedral.org/advent](http://kccathedral.org/advent) so we have a correct lunch count.

## Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15 • 5 p.m.

The Cathedral will offer its seventh annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service of Bible readings and music provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection and preparation as we anticipate the joy of Christmas and the hope of Christ's return. In the lessons, we begin with Adam and Eve, move through prophecies of the coming Messiah, and end with the Angel Gabriel visiting the Virgin Mary. The musical portions of the service are chosen to expand on the readings and on our longing for Christ's return. The music will include Advent congregational carols, choral pieces, and organ voluntaries. This event is free.  
***A reception will follow in the Common Room.***

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AT GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL



# Announcements



## Christmas Services

### Tuesday, December 24, 5 p.m.—Christmas Eve (with Nativity Pageant)

Join us Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. and watch the Cathedral kids present the Nativity Pageant.

### Tuesday, December 24, 10 p.m.—Christmas Eve

Come celebrate the birth of Christ with us. Traditional, familiar carols and service music will be featured.

### Wednesday, December 25, 10 a.m.—Christmas Day

Greet the Incarnate Lord on Christmas morning with a celebration of Holy Eucharist with carols and organ music.

## Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination:

### Prepare the Way (Luke 3:1-6)

### [utilizing "The Baptism of Jesus" Illumination (Mark Frontispiece)]

Saint John's Bible contains a powerful illumination portraying the person and message of John the Baptist. However, this illumination is titled "The Baptism of Jesus," not "The Ministry of John the Baptist" as might be expected and is found as the frontispiece of the Gospel of Mark, not tucked alongside Luke 3:1-6 (today's lectionary Gospel reading). So, we shall employ an artistic twist of the visio divina by using the Luke text as the lens through which to interpret John the Baptist in today's illumination. Furthermore, as an uncommon application, we will use the same illumination for our focus two consecutive Sundays. Today we will focus on the person of John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-6) and next Sunday on the message of John the Baptist (Luke 3:7-18) exploring how these qualities are conveyed by this illumination.

Luke's gospel provides a more extensive account of John the Baptist's ministry, while Mark offers a fuller account of Jesus' baptism – a key component of John's message signaling the "in-breaking" of God's kingdom. The complexity of this interaction is highlighted in the reality that John the Baptist's ministry was to be interpreted in light of the nature and work of Jesus. The Baptist's vocation was one of preparing the way. So, it might seem unusual that the focus of this illumination is placed on John the Baptist, not Jesus.

Note that the Baptist is positioned at the front of the panel. His feet indicate forward movement, and his hand gestures suggest invitation even as he looks to the events happening behind him. Moreover, he is not contained within the parameters of the frame and appears as though he would step forth out of the illumination. Everything about this image portrays John the Baptist as the Forerunner – one who is positioned in front of the scene delineating the main event rather than embedded in it as an agent of the action. His backward gaze is not focused upon the past, but toward the work of God to which he sought to awaken people.

For almost 1,000 years from Moses to Malachi, God had spoken to Israel through the prophets. But, after Malachi, for about 450 years Israel had not had a prophet. John the Baptist was to break this silence. He appeared as God's fulfillment of Malachi 3:1-4 to "prepare the way of the Lord." This was his advent role, his distinctive and divinely appointed ministry.

In what ways did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus' messianic work? In what ways could this witness help you prepare your "way" for God's transforming presence this advent?

