

The First Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10
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.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

The Gradual *Canticle 15 (read responsively by whole verse)*
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.

The Second Lesson James 5:7-10
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.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 615 “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee St. Flavian

The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11
The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
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.”
The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. James B. Flowers

The Nicene Creed BCP, p. 358

The Prayers of the People
Sisters and brothers, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Let us seek God, praying, “Let us see your glory, O God; *come to us and save us!*” God, save your Church from weakness of heart. Give us strength to prepare this world for the coming of your Christ and give us patience when it seems Christ’s kingdom does not come quickly enough.
Silence
Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!
God, save this nation from disordered priorities and misplaced hope. May our values mirror your values. May we be a nation that offers justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and care to the stranger.
Silence

Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!
God, save your creation from human misuse. Bless us to play a part in the redemption you have planned for all of creation.
Silence
Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!
God, save this city from hopelessness. Give us a vision and a future. Raise up prophets who will speak hope and encouragement to the people of our region.
Silence

Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!
God, save the sick and the sorrowful in the midst of their affliction. May they experience the healing work of their Messiah. Make happy all those who have you for their help.
You are invited to add your own petitions and thanksgivings.
Silence
Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!
God, bless all members of your heavenly kingdom. May they obtain eternal joy and gladness in your presence—where sorrow and sighing are no more.
Silence
Let us see your glory, O God;
Come to us and save us!

Concluding Collect
O God, your mercy endures forever. Hear the prayers of your people, and grant us the strength and the courage to walk in your ways, all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus we pray. *Amen.*

Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.
All are welcome to receive the bread and wine at the altar. You may stand or kneel at the altar rail. The bread is received in the open palm. The wine is taken by drinking from the chalice (please help guide it to your mouth by holding the base of the chalice). Gluten-free wafers are available by request, by placing one hand across your chest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest to receive it.

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer 2, from *Enriching our Worship*
Sursum Corda and Proper Preface
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus S-130 Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The Celebrant continues
Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord’s Prayer
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of

trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem S-164 Franz Schubert

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Post-Communion Prayer
Let us pray.
Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands: may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from east and west, from north and south to greet the Lord of all; we ask this in his name. Amen.

The Blessing
May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing, that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal
Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
Thanks be to God!

For the Procession Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Please remain in place until the procession is completed.
The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God.
Breakfast will follow in Stirling Hall.*

Serving today:
Lector: Bob Allen
Intercessor: Orrin Davis
Chalice: Bob Allen
Usher: Orrin Davis
Altar Guild: Betty Bentley, Michael Johnson
Bread Baker: Betty Bentley
Breakfast: Barbara Evatt, Suzanne Cleveland, Donnie Barnett, Ron Feuerlein
Doorkeeper: Cyndie Harrison
Flowers: Elizabeth Doyle
LEV: Molly Allison (Valera)

Upcoming schedule:
Sun, Dec 14 Deadline for Christmas Food Share donations
7:45a Nursery opens
8a Holy Eucharist, church
9a Breakfast, Stirling Hall
9:15a Adult choir rehearsal, Choir Rm
9:15a-10:15a Godly Play, upstairs in Parish House
9:30a Adult Sunday School, Smith Rm
10:30a Holy Eucharist, church
Reception follows, Parish House
Mon, Dec 15 7p AA, Smith Rm
Wed, Dec 17 Christmas Food Share distribution, Stirling Hall
5:30p Adult choir rehearsal, Choir Rm
6p AA, Smith Rm
Thu, Dec 18 First Light Community, Stirling Hall all day

We are a community of faith who seek to continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers; who seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; who strive for justice and peace among all people; and respect the dignity of every human being. *Baptismal Covenant, BCP, p.304*

If you are visiting please make yourself known to us either face to face, via the information cards in the pew racks, or via email: office@allsaintsmobile.org

Sign up for our parish newsletter! <https://www.allsaintsmobile.net/the-herald/>

New to The Episcopal Church? Here are a few websites that can help explain our style of worship and any unfamiliar terminology (watch any videos later):
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/dfms/what-to-expect-when-you-visit/>
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/lgbtq/>
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/>
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/>

Please keep in your prayers . . .
For healing for: Hursey Smith, Terry, Kaky Hughes, Judy Boswell, Sheridan Hinton, Lily O., Byron & Kay Cruthirds, Marie Quinn, Amy & Clay Carmichael, the Oom family, Debbie Boelte, Penelope, Kevin, Donna Bowcock, Paul Dagenais, Evi Valera, Curran Foose, Patty McMillan, Michael Laird, Joan, Ben Wilson, Mary Robert, Carolyn Thornton, Stephen Rollins, Peggy Barnett, the Simpson family, the Carr family, the Landrum family, James Lee Quinn, Monica Thompson, Mary Hunter Slaton, Dana Pollock, Cora Lou Robinson, Karen Bullock, Buck Baker, Robin Steele, Lequita Adkins, Phyllis Smith, Bryan LaPorte, Will Strickland, Sue Elledge, Bruce Barrett, Lister Thomas, Nick Nichols, Meg Stojanik, Jan Cade, Chuck Salmon, Serena Willcox, Claudia McClure, Caden Gray, Mary, Richard Cade, Jr., Hannah Pullins, Cora Cade Lemmon, Becky Wilson, Rose Ellen Stanbery, Adele Smith, Marcia Wyatt, Jacky Bell, Eve Morrison, Colleen, Ann Wesley, Staci Smith, Andi Barrett, Ken Buford, Dottie Dunnam, Gwyn Brantley, Mark Kidd, Lynn Koors, Mary Rose, Preston Griffith, Jan Irving, Frieda Kennedy, Hoagy, Tom Root, Shannon, Regina, Brian Davidson, Debra Guyton, John Gibson Baylor, Jr., Rita Foust, Haley, Jill, Jennifer Smith, Shannon Cook
For those who serve in the armed forces: especially Bernie Waters, David Palmer, David L. Ritter II, Ethan Roberts, Thomas Roberts, Matt Abbot, Trevor Thiel

For those who have died, especially Garn Menell.
**Please notify the church office by the last Wednesday of the month if you wish your prayer concern to continue to be listed.*

All Saints Episcopal Church
151 South Ann Street, Mobile, Alabama 36604
www.allsaintsmobile.net (251)567-0798
The Rev. James B. Flowers, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Bob Donnell, Associate Priest
The Rev. Mary Robert, Associate Priest
Joshua Bullock, Principal Parish Musician
Arletha Clemons, Nursery Staff
Undra Dunning, Church Sexton



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 AM
December 14, 2025

Welcome to All Saints! We begin worship in holy silence.
*Please silence all cell phones. In the tradition of the church, prayer posture is standing or kneeling. Our preference at All Saints is standing, but kneeling is acceptable. The red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) & the blue Hymnal 1982 are in the book rack in front of you. Hymn numbers preceded by “S” are found in the front section of the hymnal. Words written in ***Bold Italics*** are said by the congregation.*

Opening Voluntary

Hear the words of Jesus: You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first Law of God, and the second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two laws hang the whole of scripture.

The Peace
God’s judgment is not vengeance, an eye for an eye; God’s peace is not false, a veil for injustice; God comes to break the spear, to silence the guns and still our warring souls. May the peace of Christ rule our world and heal our hearts. The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Confession and Absolution
Let us confess our sins to God.
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 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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

Trisagion (said three times)
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
God of the burning sand and thirsty ground: you called John into the wilderness to announce a new creation far from palaces of royal power; make us ready for your intensity, the judgment that opens our senses to the poverty of our world and calls to life what lingers in death; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. ***Amen.***