



# St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church

## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 27th

### Psalm 72

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**2 May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.**

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**8 May he have dominion from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

9 May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust.

**10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

**14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

15 Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually and blessings invoked for him all day long.

**16 May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field.**

17 May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun. May all nations be blessed in him; may they pronounce him happy.

**18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

**20 The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.**

### A reading from the Book of Second Samuel (2 Samuel 7:1-17)

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my

servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.” In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **A reading from the Gospel of Luke**

*(Luke 1:39-56)*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** ***Thanks be to God.***