

Christ And Your Doubts



Matthew 11:2-6

The blind receive sight
THE LAME WALK

THOSE WHO HAVE LEPROSY ARE CLEANSED

the deaf hear

the **DEAD** are **RAISED** &

the good news

is **PROCLAIMED TO THE POOR**

Matthew 11:5

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite II

9:30 a.m.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
10233 W. Peoria Avenue * Sun City AZ 85351
623-972-1100 * office@stchristophers-az.org

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude		
Announcements		Mike Soock
Processional	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	H-56, Vs, 3, 4
Opening Acclamation		BCP 355
Kyrie	<i>Lord Have Mercy Upon Us</i>	S-91
Lighting of the Advent Candle		Attached
The Collect of the Day		Attached
First Reading	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Attached
Psalms	Canticle 15 (Luke 1: 46-55_	Attached

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning,
is now and will be forever. Amen**

Second Reading	James 5: 7-10	Attached
Gospel Hymn	<i>Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)</i>	Attached
Gospel	Matthew 11: 2-11	Attached
Sermon		The Rev. Gerardo Brambila
Nicene Creed		BCP 358
Prayers of the People Form III		Attached
Absolution		BCP 360
The Peace		BCP-360
Birthdays/Anniversaries/Blessings		BCP Inside Cover
Travel Blessings		BCP 831

Offertory

Offertory Sentence		BCP 376
Offertory Anthem	<i>I Need Thee Every Hour – Hawks & Lowry</i>	
Doxology	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	H-380, v. 3

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B		BCP 367
Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord</i>	S-129
The Lord's Prayer	<i>Our Father (Spoken)</i>	
Fraction Anthem	<i>Christ Our Passover</i>	S-155
The Breaking of the Bread		BCP 364

The Invitation & Distribution

Communion Hymn	<i>Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers</i>	H-68
Post Communion Prayer		BCP-498
The Blessing		Celebrant's Choice
Dismissal Hymn	<i>Soon and Very Soon</i>	Attached
Dismissal Acclamation		BCP 366

THIRD CANDLE:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Loving God, as we light the third candle of this Advent wreath, we rejoice in your presence. Amen

People: May the light of this candle fill our hearts with the joy of your salvation. Help us to share this joy with others, spreading your love and happiness to all we encounter. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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 forever. Amen.

Old Testament 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.

Canticle 15 (Luke 1: 46-55)

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Epistle 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.

The Holy Gospel
Matthew 11:2-11

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."

Prayers of the People
Form III

Lector: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People: That we all may be one.
Lector: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.
People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.
Lector: We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer, our Bishop, Gerardo, our Rector and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People: For all who serve God in his Church
Lector: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in our military, serving at home and abroad, including the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force, and Merchant Marines. We pray specifically for Matt, Zach, Christopher, and Tierra.
People: Defend them day-by-day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trails and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; grant them a sense of your added presence wherever they may be.
Lector: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
Lector: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People: That our works may find favor in your sight.
Lector: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People: That they may be delivered from their distress.
Lector: Give to the departed eternal rest.
People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.
Lector: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Lector: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned**
And People: **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.**

from the Musical **GODSPELL**

PREPARE YE

(The Way of the Lord)

Words and Music by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Moderately

N.C.

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord, pre

p

pare ye the way of the Lord. Pre - pare ye the

mp

A Bm

way of the Lord, pre - pare ye the way of the Lord.

C#m Dmaj7 E A Bm C#m Dmaj7 E

194

Soon And Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

SOON AND VERY SOON, Irregular
Andraé Crouch
Adapt. by William F. Smith



1. Soon and ver - y soon, — we are going to see the King; —
2. No more cry - ing there, — we are going to see the King; —
3. No more dy - ing there, — we are going to see the King; —

Hal - le - lu - jah!



1. soon and ver - y soon, — we are going to see the King; —
2. no more cry - ing there, — we are going to see the King; —
3. no more dy - ing there, — we are going to see the King; —

Hal - le - lu - jah!



1. soon and ver - y soon, — we are going to see the King; — Hal - le -
2. no more cry - ing there, — we are going to see the King; — Hal - le -
3. no more dy - ing there, — we are going to see the King; — Hal - le -



1. lu - jah! — Hal - le - lu - jah! — We're going to see the King. —
2. lu - jah! — Hal - le - lu - jah! — We're going to see the King. —
3. lu - jah! — Hal - le - lu - jah! — We're going to see the King. —

St. Christopher's uses the following texts as worship aides:

The Book of Common Prayer = BCP
The 1982 Hymnal = H
Wonder, Love & Praise Hymnal = WLP

Today's Worship Leaders

Celebrant:	The Rev. Gerardo Brambila
Verger:	Patty Emanuelson
Crucifer:	Al Franco
Gospel Bearer	Betty Roddy
First Reading and Psalm	Lisa Wolford
Second Reading	Judi Soock
Prayers of the People	Don Palm
Chalice Bearers:	Betty Roddy & Al Franco
Music Director	Mr. Don Palm

St. Christopher's Staff

The Rev. Gerardo Brambila, Rector
Cathy Sheredy, Administrative Assistant
Arturo Jaramillo, Sexton
Don Palm, Music Director & Organist
Arturo & Isabel Jaramillo, Hispanic Music Leader & Vocalists

Vestry Members

Jane Cooley, Senior Warden
Bill Masters, Junior Warden
Diane Plein, Clerk of the Vestry
Richard Camp, Treasurer
Chinenye Anako, Member-at large
Carmen Borda, Member-at-large
Marva Martinez, Member-at-Large
Maria Salgado, Member-at-large
Mike Soock, Member-at-Large
Dick Young, Member-at-Large

Do you know someone who would benefit from prayer? Contact us! Would you like more information about something you read in the announcements? Contact us! Do you have an idea for fellowship or fund-raising? Contact us! Maybe you would like to talk with Fr. Gerardo? Contact us! Have a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, accident, family issues, something similar)? Contact us! Lots of information on the message! And you can leave one too!

But, if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Gerardo at 602-405-4588 and leave a message.

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Office Phone: 623-972-1100.



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Weekly Announcements December 14, 2025

Our Vision:

One congregation worshiping and serving in two languages.

Our Mission:

We are the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus: welcoming all to worship and serving those in need to the glory of God.

Please leave the music inserts and the Prayers of the People inserts in the pews or in the narthex. Thank you for helping to save administrative costs.

Friendly Reminder: All changes and submissions for the bulletin and/or announcements for Sunday, December 21 needs to be in the office by Thursday, December 18 at noon to be included. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia plant to decorate the altar at Christmas and then take home, there is a list on the table in the Narthex. Add your name and the number of plants you would like to purchase. The suggested donation is \$25 per plant. You can use an envelope on the table in which you write your first and last name with your donation, cash, or check. Thank you.

BIBLE STUDY: One of the best ways to connect and grow in our church community is through small groups. Small groups are a place where we can study God's word together and support each other in our faith journeys. The Bible Study is open to everyone and takes place on **Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**. Come and join in fellowship.

MORNING PRAYER BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS AT 10:05 AM: If you like morning prayer and can't get to church all the time, feel free to join us on Zoom any Wednesday morning around 10:05 – 10:35. For more information, contact Patty Emanuelson, Mona Guarino or Beth Mayhew (602-435-5272). Look forward to seeing you!

Giving Statements for 2025 as of 11-30-25: Please check your mail cart folder for your current 2025 giving statement. If you find any errors or have questions please call or text Beth Mayhew at 602- 435 -5272. Thank you for your generosity



FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP! Coffee hour needs donations of cookies, donuts, coffee cakes, fruit trays, or anything you would like to bring. We are always looking for an extra set of hands to help in the kitchen. Sign up in the kitchen.

We really do appreciate the help everyone gives each week! Thank you!

NAME BADGES: We ask everyone to please remember to wear your name badge as it would be of immense help for Fr. Gerardo, new parishioners, and visitors. If you need a name badge, please contact the office.

2026 PLEDGES/PROMISE FORMS: The Vestry and Stewardship Committee of St. Christopher’s would like to thank the people below who have submitted their 2026 Promise forms. We are pleased to report now that the combined total of the commitments received is \$129,062. This is about 58% of the anticipated budget.*

LAS POSADAS: This year, to celebrate Las Posadas, St. Christopher’s will join with Iglesia Episcopal de San Pablo, 2801 N. 31st Street, Phoenix on Saturday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. See the flyer in the Narthex for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: There will be one Christmas Eve service in English, on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS: A Christmas Mass in Spanish will take place on Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

FOOD BANK/FOOD DRIVE: Next week is “Pasta and Rice” Sunday. Please bring a box of your favorite pasta (spaghetti, rigatoni, macaroni, penne), canned or jar of your favorite pasta sauce, or canned tomatoes or puree to share. Thank you for your generosity. ~Generosity is love in action—Harold W. Becker

Monthly Food Bank Donations

	December 8	2025 Total
Weight	60 lbs.	1,632 lbs.
Cash		\$1,200.00

Monthly Thrift Shop Stats

	December 8	December Total	2025 Year Total
Bargains	\$629.00	\$1,209.00	\$22,045.35 **
Bookstore	\$27.00	\$64.00	\$2,489.00



Happy Birthday to Everyone Celebrating in December

Susan Schlichting	December 03	Janice Crane	December 16
Nowelle Ketzalcoatl Aguirre Salgado	December 04	Anthony Nieco	December 17
Stacey Cortez	December 04	Lisa Wolford	December 17
Anna Van Scoter	December 06	Miguel López	December 24
Chinenye Anako	December 07	Mario Ramirez	December 24
Diane Neverman	December 08	Hugh Duncan	December 25
Jacinto Nieco Guzmán	December 08	Arturo Jaramillo	December 29,
Lucia Cortez	December 14		



Happy Anniversary in December

Denisse Rios	December 2	5
Jacinto & Ivon Nieco	December 20	28
Zeferino & Maria Maciel	December 23	47
Frieda Spann & Al Hensley	December 29	36

This Week's Prayer List

One of the ways we care for one another in this church is through prayer. We believe that prayer is powerful and can bring comfort, healing, and peace. Today, we pray for the people below.

* Kelli Abel * Juan Gabriel Aleman * Anne * Jim Barnette * Viviana Brambila * Judy Broeder *
 * Jan Browning & granddaughters Haley and Kia * Tom Camper * John Card * Clive Chancey *
 * Rev. Sandy Chilese * Christopher * Claudio * Colleen Combs * Jonathan Dombek * Jean Durrett * Barbara Fabre *
 * Gale & Arthur Farinas * Cathy & Gary Gustin * April Harris * Michael Heap * Judith * Gene Lapham * Terry Lewis *
 * Domingo Lopez * Monica Maldonado * Ernesto Martinez * Marva Martinez * Wayne Martino & Family *
 * Christina Mason * Brenda McCormick * Mia * Shawn Mirigian * Joanne Mola * Mr. Monata * Bryan Nance *
 * Marla Karla Pallas * Don Palm * Joanne Porter * Ramon * Jill Renner * Bill Richardson * Rick & Robbie *
 * Betty Roddy * Javier Sanchez * Socorro Sanchez * Sharyn * Sherrie * Sebastian * Charles Jay Smith & Family * Stella *
 * Kurt Tetrick * Anna Van Scoter * Victoria * Lynn Viviano-Webb * Ester Zamora *

For those who have died

* Jim DuFault * Jim Dunkelberger * Peter Houle * Ruth Jones * Raol Zamora

Vestry

Jane Cooley, Senior Warden * Bill Masters, Junior Warden,
 Diane Plein, Clerk of the Vestry * Richard Camp, Treasurer

Members at Large

Chinenye Anako * Carmen Borda * Marva Martinez * Maria Salgado * Mike Soock * Dick Young *

St. Christopher's Staff

The Rev. Gerardo Brambila, Rector * Cathy Sheredy, Administrative Assistant
Arturo Jaramillo, Sexton
Don Palm, Music Director & Organist
Arturo & Isabel Jaramillo, Hispanic Music Leaders & Vocalists

Contact Us!

Do you know someone who would benefit from prayer? Contact us! Would you like more information about something you read in the announcements? Contact us! Do you have an idea for fellowship or fund-raising? Contact us! Maybe you would like to talk with Father Gerardo? Contact us! Have a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, accident, family issues, something similar)? Contact us! Lots of information in the message! And you can leave one too!

But, if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Father Gerardo at 602-405-4588 and leave a message.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Office Phone: 623-972-1100.