

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

MORNING PRAYER RITE II

JANUARY 4, 2026

THE EPISCOPAL RIVER PARISHES

8:30 am - St. John's, Cape Vincent

10:30 am Christ Church, Clayton

The Word of God

| | | |
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| ENTRANCE HYMN | <i>On this day earth shall ring</i> | 1982 Hymnal #93 |
| OPENING SENTENCE FOR CHRISTMAS | <i>Standing as able.</i> | BCP p. 78 |
| CONFSSION OF SIN | | BCP p. 79 |
| THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER | | BCP p. 80 |
| VENITE | | BCP p. 82 |
| PSALM Psalm 84 | <i>Read responsively by whole verse.</i> | BCP p. 707 |
| ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! * | | |
| My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; | | |
| my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. | | |
| ² The sparrow has found her a house | | |
| and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * | | |
| by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, | | |
| my King and my God. | | |
| ³ Happy are they who dwell in your house! * | | |
| they will always be praising you. | | |
| ⁴ Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * | | |
| whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. | | |
| ⁵ Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * | | |
| for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. | | |
| ⁶ They will climb from height to height, * | | |
| and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. | | |
| ⁷ Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; * | | |
| hearken, O God of Jacob. | | |
| ⁸ Behold our defender, O God; * | | |
| and look upon the face of your Anointed. | | |
| ⁹ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, * | | |
| and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God | | |
| than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. | | |
| ¹⁰ For the Lord God is both sun and shield; * | | |
| he will give grace and glory; | | |
| ¹¹ No good thing will the Lord withhold * | | |
| from those who walk with integrity. | | |
| ¹² O Lord of hosts, * | | |
| happy are they who put their trust in you! | | |

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,

and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,’
says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST CANTICLE *Officiant and People together, standing.*

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

(Luke 2:29-32)

BCP p. 93

SECOND READING A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND CANTICLE *Officiant and People together, standing.* **Canticle 21: You are God** BCP p. 95

THIRD READING A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being

warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

HYMN *The first Nowell the angel did say* **1982 Hymnal #109**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing.

BCP p. 96

HYMN *What Child is This?* **1982 Hymnal #115**

The people stand as able

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SUFFRAGES - Form A or

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

PEACE *The Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

To God, Ephesians 5:2

Officiant. Walk

to the God. Ephesians 5.2

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “**Lord, have mercy.**”
For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us
pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our towns and villages, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list and those we name silently or aloud, (*pause*) let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 101

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

BCP p. 102

DISMISSAL & CLOSING SENTENCE

CLOSING HYMN

We three kings of Orient are

1982 Hymnal #128

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (St. John's in bold)

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Sharon Campbell | 6 | Jaelyn Elliot | 21 |
| Gloria Schaber | 6 | Tory Carpenter | 22 |
| Doris Schenck | 13 | Kolby Kittle | 22 |
| Alan Hutchinson | 19 | Azure Arnot Wisse | 27 |
| Ember Valdez | 19 | Stephen Coubler | 28 |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Tracy and Jim Brabant 3

TODAY'S MINISTERS

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 8:30 am | Lay Worship Leader | Ann Rexford |
| | Lector | Faith Vernetti |
| | Acolyte | Colleen Mercer |
| | Altar Guild, Usher | Diane Sanders |
| | Video Technician | Stephen Coubler |
| | Musician | Helen Timerman |

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 10:30 am | Altar Guild | Tracy Brabant |
| | Lay Worship Leader | Sharon Campbell |
| | Lector | Marty Yenawine |
| | Video Technician | James Glynn |
| | Usher | Sandy Robinson |
| | Musician | Helen Timerman |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD SENSE: Orders are accepted by phone or in person **Mon, Jan 12, 9am-12 pm or Thurs, Jan 15, 9am-12 pm.** Cash, Credit Card, EBT and SNAP are accepted. **Online orders:** <https://foodsense.foodbankcny.org/> **Deadline to order online: Mon, Jan 19. Pick up your order on Thurs, Jan 29, 2:30pm - 4:00pm.**

HEART TO HEART: The free community dinner will return on **Monday, January 5, 4:30 until gone** with hot dogs and macaroni & cheese on the menu.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sign-up sheets are at church entrances for 2026.

ST. JOHN'S VESTRY MEETING: **Thursday, January 8 at 7 pm.**