

St. Monica's Episcopal Church

Where we "Pray, Love, Give"

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Saturday 5:00 pm January 3, 2026

Sunday 10:00 am January 4, 2026

Welcome to Saint Monica's Episcopal Church. We rejoice that you came to our church today, and we hope that you feel at home here.

As an Episcopal Church, we believe the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

As you consider what brought you here, perhaps seeking spiritual growth, looking for community, or responding to a simple invitation, please take a moment to look at the opportunities listed in the announcements included with this bulletin to find ways to grow in your faith and find a place of welcome. If you have any questions about how you can take part in the community of St. Monica's or about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to contact The Rev. Sylvia Czarnetzky, Interim Rector or The Rev. Ken McCaslin, Deacon.

Again, we are glad you are here at Saint Monica's Episcopal Church where all are welcome.

**** Please remember to silence your electronic devices during the service. ****

Prelude

Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Max Reger

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able

Processional Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 93

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High
stanza 1

Hymn 96

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated

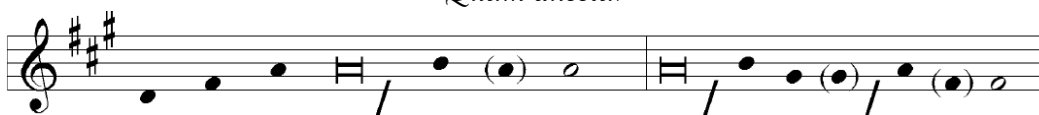
The Word of God

The First Lesson

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.**



- 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 re/joice 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 him/self 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 A/nointed.

Second Reading

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.

Gradual Hymn

What Star is This

Hymn 124

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod

secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jean Hite

Please stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed

Page 358, BCP

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.*

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

For Advent through Epiphany

Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Reader: Blessed are you eternal God,

People: to be praised and glorified forever.

Reader: Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.

People: May we all be one that the world may believe.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,

People: that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

Reader: We remember those who have died.

People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

Reader: Remembering especially Saint Monica, we praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

People: May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Reader: We lift before you those on our parish prayer list. Have compassion on all those who suffer from sickness, grief, or trouble.

People: **May they find strength in your presence.**

Reader: Look with kindness on our homes and families.

People: **Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.**

Reader: Keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.

People: **Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.**

Reader: Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world

People: **Guide them in the ways of justice and peace.**

Reader: Strengthen all who minister in the name of Christ, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Doug, our Bishop.

People: **Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.**

Reader: We pray in silence for our own needs and the needs of others.

Concluding Collect

Almighty and most merciful God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of the Virgin Mary; grant that we, who have been made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy and Life-Giving Spirit. We ask this through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

Absolution

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**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory

Dans Une Douce Joie

Marcel Dupré

In Sweet Jubilation

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

The Doxology (Stanza 3)

Hymn 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 361

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymn S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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 Saint Monica and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymn S-164

The Invitation to Communion

You are invited and encouraged to come to God's table. The communion bread is received on an outstretched palm.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn

The First Noel

Hymn 109

Sending Prayer (as needed)

Celebrant Most Gracious God, we send forth your servants bearing these Holy Gifts, that those to whom they go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we all share in the Body and Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Page 365, BCP

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Response: *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn 102

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From Heaven Above

Johann Sebastian Bach

What is St. Monica's about?

As an Episcopal Church, we believe the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members. (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 855)

Within this framework, St. Monica's maintains a culture where ...

- We warmly welcome all. We affirm the dignity of all humanity through a warm and friendly welcome.
- We connect with the community. We support ministries with our talents, finances, and passions.
- We cultivate a culture that welcomes children and youth, affirming them in their baptismal identity and that they are children of God with gifts to offer to the church.
- Music plays a vital role in our worship and outreach to the community.
- Through prayer, friendship, and community, God's Spirit heals us.
- Fun is a high value in our community and is woven throughout our congregational life.
- We open ourselves to the Spirit. We have a long history of trying new ventures and ministries. Within the framework of our Episcopal values, we are open to change.

LECTORS THIS WEEK

5pm Frank Dowd
10am Lynn Swendeman

USHERS THIS WEEK

5pm Brenda Walsh
Linda Duffy
10am Jack Hufty
Betty Devlin

FLOWER GUILD MEMBERS

Debbie Corey
Sharon Lapierre

GREETERS THIS WEEK

5pm JoAnn Sarconi
10am Sue Adams

ACOLYTES THIS WEEK

5pm Beau Crevier
10am Linda Flores-Rumph

CAMERA TEAM

Tom Cotè
Matt Devlin
Ashan Nabbie
Jim Sarconi
Kyle Williamson

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

Linda Duffy
Linda Freund
Mary Gentzle
Sandy Kilmon
Stacey McCurdy
Theresa Miller
JoAnn Sarconi
Ruthann Turley
Heather Williamson

VESTRY

Ed Strong - Sr. Warden, Ralph Pike - Jr. Warden, Heather Williamson - Secretary
Margaret Holt, Dick Rumpf, Marilynn Dessauer, Melanie Rose

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