

GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II December 25, 2025

10:00AM

WELCOME TO GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In this Christmas season we remember that the God who was born into this world two thousand years ago still comes near, to dwell in our hearts, to break into our lives, to live with us in all of our messiness and complexities. This is our God: the God who comes to us, even when we are sure we are out of reach; even when we are sure we are unworthy of God's love.

In response to such great, merciful, limitless love, we bring our finest offering: "ourselves, our souls and bodies." Because God always comes to us, because God is not scared away by our hurts, our situations, or our burdens, we offer our praise and worship surrounded by this holy family, the family God has made for us by the waters of baptism: the Church. In this place, in this holy season, we offer to God our lives in worship: a humble gift to the one who has given us so very much.

Christmas Day

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand.

HYMN 102: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Irby

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 96: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Gloria



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night, and the moun - tains
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer? What great bright - ness
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing; come, a - dore on
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove; Ma - ry, Jo - seph,



in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light. Glo - - -
did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

[52:7-10]

HOW BEAUTIFUL upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

Cantate Domino

Read responsively by whole verse

SING TO THE LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

THE EPISTLE

Reader A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

[1:1-4, 5-12]

LONG AGO God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

HYMN 84: LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Gartan

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

[1:1-14]

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

The people sit.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Robert Black

THE NICENE CREED (*The people stand*)

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*The people stand or kneel*)

Form 4, BCP 388

After each petition, the people respond: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Please kneel, as able.

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.

Celebrant

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.**

THE PEACE (*The people stand*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

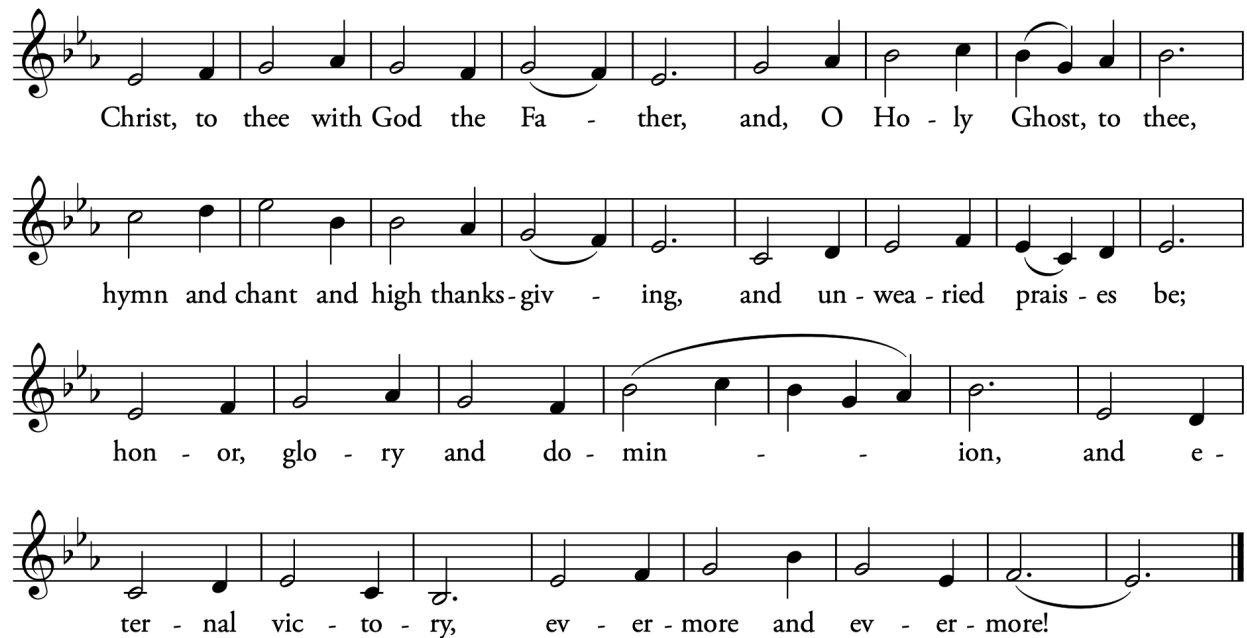
THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

PRESENTATION HYMN (HYMN 82, v. 4)

Divinum mysterium

The people stand



Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be;
hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - - ion, and e -
ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.**

Celebrant

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

Franz Schubert (S130)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

Please remain standing, the Celebrant continues...

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,

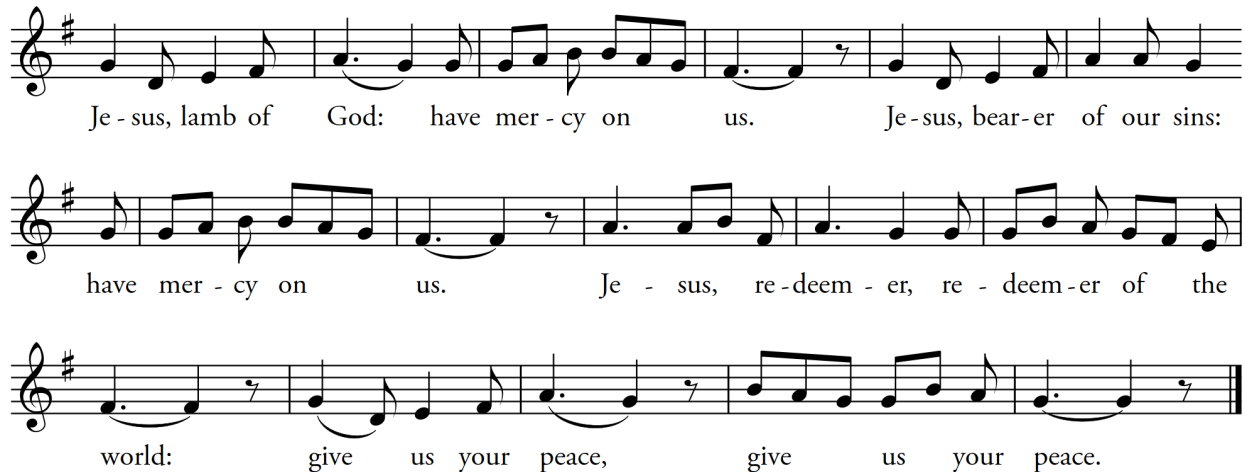
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

AGNUS DEI

Franz Schubert (SI64)



Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The celebration of the Holy Eucharist has been called the “source and summit” of the faith and it is central to our identity, as in this sacred meal we are gathered in beloved community, made present to the Passion of our Lord, and nourished in God’s abundant love in the Body and Blood of Christ, the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Therefore, **all are welcome and invited to come forward to participate in the grace and peace of Communion.** There are a few ways that you can do this:*

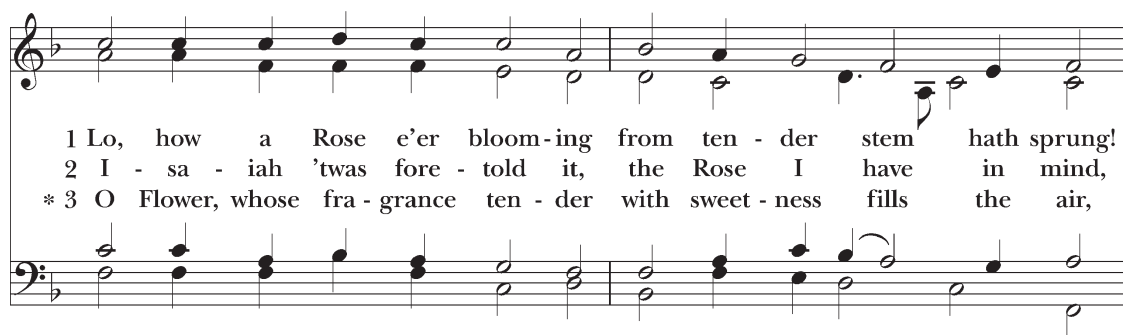
- Receive both the bread and wine: Place one palm on top of the other and you will be given a piece of bread, which you consume. Please do not take the bread, but allow the clergy to place it on your palm. When the chalice comes to you, please assist by guiding the chalice to your lips. Please note that there is no self-intincting (dipping) of the bread into the chalice.
 - If, due to illness or preference, you are not able to drink from the chalice, place your palms face down before receiving the bread. The clergy will then intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice for you. Turn your palms over to receive.
 - If you need to receive a **gluten-free** wafer, please let the clergy person distributing bread know. You will be given wine from a separate chalice for those receiving gluten-free wafers.
- Receive only the bread: Cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice.
- Receive a prayer of blessing: If you prefer not to receive Communion, or are not Baptized, cross your arms across your chest before receiving the bread. All Baptized Christians (in any tradition or denomination) are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not Baptized and desire to be a part of and receive the Body of Christ, please speak with our clergy.

Please fill the Altar Rail from right to left (wall to the middle on the right side & middle to wall on the left side), return to your pew via the side aisles. You may kneel or stand to receive. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please let an usher know.

As you wait to go forward to receive Communion, or afterward, you might find prayers 66 & 67 on page 834 of the Prayer Book to be helpful. It is our intention that as we share in this Sacrament that we behold what we are and become what we receive.

HYMN 81: LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

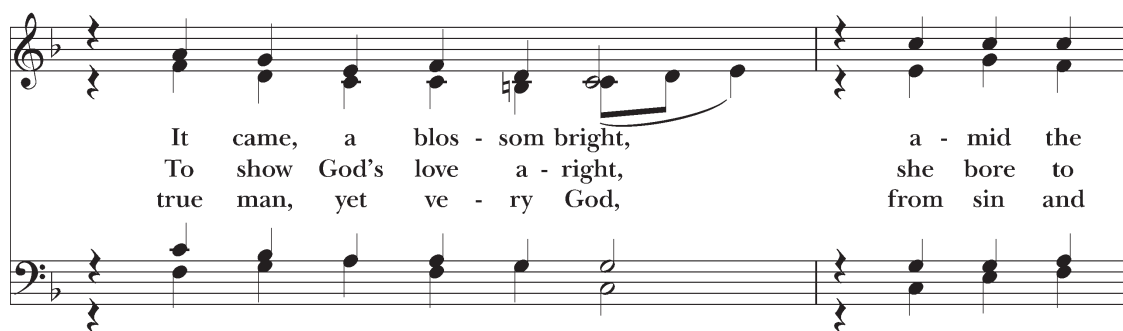
Es ist ein Ros



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

The people stand or kneel.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

The people stand.

HYMN 100: JOY TO THE WORLD!

Antioch



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy,
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove



let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound-ing joy,
he comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,
the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his love,



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-732918. All rights reserved.

Cover art: Tent City Nativity icon by Kelly Latimore. Used with permission.