



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 4, 2026 – 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. The liturgy begins on page 355 of the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns that are listed in the bulletin may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. We hope this bulletin provides the information you need in order to participate fully in our worship. We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

In dulci jublio (Marcel Dupré)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Angels from the realms of glory (Regent Square) (H 93)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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 (Gloria) (H 98)

THE 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.

The People sit.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL (9:00 a.m. only)

After a prayer, children ages 4 through 5th grade are dismissed for Children's Chapel. Children under age 4 may attend with a parent or be cared for in the nursery.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁷Thus 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.' ⁸See, 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. ⁹With 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. ¹⁰Hear 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.' ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They 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. ¹³Then 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. ¹⁴I 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.

PSALM: Psalm 84

¹How 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.

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1915)



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 a/ointed.

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 with/hold *
 from those who walk with in/tegrity.

¹² O Lord of / hosts, *
 happy are they who put their trust in / you!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

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

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ^{19a}and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Love came down at Christmas (Gartan) (H 84)

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹³After 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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and 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.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“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.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But 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. ²³There 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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Doug Hodsdon

THE NICENE CREED

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

Please kneel or stand, as best helps you to pray.

After each petition

The People respond,

Hear our prayer.

CONFSSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

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.

The Priest stands and says

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A New Year Carol (Benjamin Britten)

From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th) (H 380)

OFFERTORY HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A (BCP p. 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.

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

S 130 Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx)(BCP pg. 362)

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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

People and Celebrant

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, forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S 154 Christ our Passover (Hurd) (BCP pg. 364)

We welcome you to receive the true presence of Jesus in this Holy Communion. Come forward to the altar rail and kneel or stand with an upturned palm to receive the bread.

(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.) To receive the wine, you may either drink from the chalice or intinct (dip) your bread carefully in the chalice. If you'd prefer not to receive communion, but would like to receive a blessing, kneel or stand at the altar rail with your arms crossed over your chest. Please do not hesitate to ask for communion to be brought to you in your pew. Notify an usher, who will let the clergy know to assist you.

COMMUNION HYMN

Away in a manger (Cradle Song) (H 101)

COMMUNION HYMN

The first Nowell the angel did say (The First Nowell) (H 109)

COMMUNION HYMN

How bright appears the Morning Star (Wie schön leuchtet) (H 497)

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the Name of Christ and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People We who are many are one body, as we share one bread, one cup. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING

CLOSING PROCESSIONAL HYMN

What star is this, with beams so bright (Puer nobis) (H 124)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In Bethlehem Born (Helmut Walcha)

† † †

The flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for St. Peter's clergy.