

*Note: Content of the Bulletin is subject to change without notice.*



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
January 5, 2025

**Welcome:** Whatever your background and however you have come to be here, we are glad you are. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's peace this morning.

**THE OPENING HYMN 680**

**Oh God Our Ages Past**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

2

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

3

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

4

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

5

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

6

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

## Collect For Purity

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

## The Gloria:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

## 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.*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

## The First Reading

### 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.

### ***The Word of the Lord.***

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

## **The Psalm**

### **Psalm 84**

#### ***Quam dilecta!***

- 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!

***The Word of the Lord.***

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The New Testament**

**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.

***The Word of the Lord.***

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*P.:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People:** *Glory be to you, O Lord*

**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."

**P.: The Gospel of the Lord.**

**People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ***

**THE SERMON**

**Rev. Stepheya Sandhana**

**THE NICENE CREED**

**BCP p. 358**

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 (Form IV)**

**BCP p. 388**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your

Name maybe united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We command to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

## THE CONFESSION

BCP p. 359

*The Deacon or 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**

**BCP p. 360**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE OFFERING**

## **THE DOXOLOGY**

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

*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 God 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.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:*

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.**

*Celebrant:*

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. 364

*Celebrant:*

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE COMMUNION**

*All Baptized Christians are invited to the Lord's table to receive the sacrament. If you do not choose to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BCP p. 365**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*  
**Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

## THE CLOSING HYMN

## Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for our congregation, community and especially:  
Paul, Kevin, Mandy, Eugene, Mr. Ramon, Patty, Vit & Phyllis, Debbie,  
Ali, Aron, Craig, JoKay, Mark, Janet, Button, Dolores, Rene, Diana G.,  
Jim, Joe, Bill, Josiah, Joshua, and Terrence.

*(Please contact the office if you would like to add someone to our prayer list.)*

***Please join us for the First Sunday After the Epiphany on January 12, 2025.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

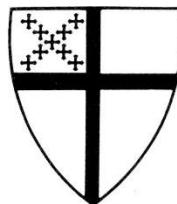
TBA

Restrooms are located inside the Parish Hall. Children may go to our nursery during the service, in the Parish Hall.

If you need assistance, please call the church office at 956-399-1795.  
If there is no answer, please leave a message and we will return your  
call.



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