

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

First Sunday after Christmas

8:30 and 10:30 am • December 28, 2025

ABBREVIATIONS: **BCP** Book of Common Prayer | **CG** A Child's Guide to the Holy Eucharist | **LEVAS II** Lift Every Voice and Sing II | **WLP** Wonder, Love and Praise

### THE PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude

*The Angelus is a traditional litany that recalls the Incarnation, consisting of scriptural verses and prayers centered on the Annunciation. While more commonly seen in Roman Catholic practice, it can also be incorporated into Episcopal devotion as a reminder of Christ's presence and the significance of Mary's "yes" to God's call.*

*Leader* The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

*Response* **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

*Leader* Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

*Response* **Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Leader* Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

*Response* **Be it done unto me according to your word.**

*Leader* Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

*Response* **Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Leader* And the WORD was made flesh,

*Response* **And dwelt among us.**

*Leader* Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

*Response* **Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Leader* Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,  
*Response* **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

*Leader* Let us pray.  
Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

93. Angels from the realms of glory *Regent Square*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355 | CG 3

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

THE SONG OF PRAISE:

8:30 Glory to God *BCP 356 | CG 5*  
10:30 S280. Gloria *Robert Powell*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

*Children aged 3–11 are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment. There is no Children's Formation today, so afterward they may return to their seats in the pews.*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 147:13–21.

*Laudate Dominum*

*We will recite the psalm antiphonally by whole verse, beginning with the Narthex side.*

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN:

107. Good Christian friends rejoice

*In dulci jubilo*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–18

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

*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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon

grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Lee

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358 | CG 9

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we continue along the path of the Savior's birth, we gather in Bethlehem to celebrate Christ's arrival. We lift up our prayers for peace and goodwill, saying, Incarnate God, hear our prayer.

May the universal church, especially the members of this congregation, be like the Angels heralding the birth of Christ, and proclaim the inclusive love and exuberant grace of God to the world. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit be like Elizabeth and find healing and joy infusing their bodies and souls in unexpected ways. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks, ready to leap into action, as we offer our care and compassion for a hurting and worried world. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Zachariah and allow God's hand to cover our mouths when it is best that we not speak, and instead listen and pray. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Joseph and dream of a just and equitable creation, a dream that sees the presence of the incarnate God in all things, and in our dreams, invites us to be a part of the new creation. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Mary, trusting in God's providence, leading by word and example, lifting up the lowly, filling the hungry with good things, and toppling towers of injustice. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we, like the wise men, seek light, follow the star and not be afraid of where the Holy Spirit is calling us in the year ahead. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360 | CG 13

**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 PEACE

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

Masters in this Hall  
*(Piano solo)*

Setting by Mark Hayes

THE OFFERTORY HYMN:

84. Love came down at Christmas

*Gartan*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367 | CG 29

*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.**

SANCTUS

8:30

10:30 S128 (Sanctus)

BCP 362 | CG 19

William Mathias

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364 | CG 45

THE FRACTION

BCP 364 | CG 23

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE COMMUNION HYMN:

81. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

*Es ist ein Ros*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366 | CG 27

**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 SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you 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 one bread, one cup. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE FINAL HYMN:

105. God Rest you Merry

*God Rest You Merry*

THE DISMISSAL

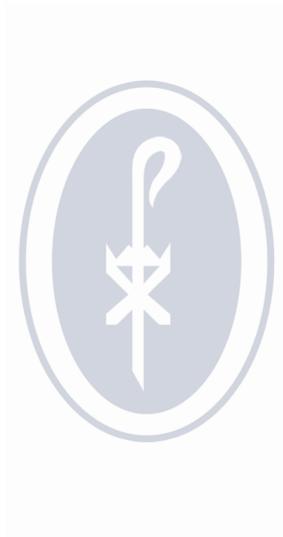
*The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, and the People respond*

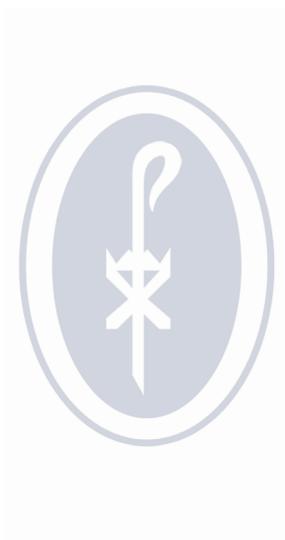
**Thanks be to God. Alleluja.**

THE POSTLUDE:

Christmas Carol Medley

James Denton







CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY VESTRY 2025

*Wardens* Sarah O'Connor (Senior) and Dave McKinnon (Junior)

*Members* David Dykes, Hannah Harris, Emily Jividen, Robert Joines, Susan Kelley, Yvette Smith, Lillis Ward, Sam Wesonga

*Officers* Matt Dutton (Treasurer), Bill Sena (Assistant Treasurer) and Hannah Harris (Registrar)





## QUICK LINKS

Scan this QR code to fill out a welcome card, give online, and more.

*We thank the following people for their service today:*

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Jim Melnyk
PREACHER	The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Lee
Organist and Choirmaster	Christian Schoen
LECTORS	Helen Armstrong, Josh Booth (8:30) George Douglas, Duff McAdams, Waltie Rasulala (10:30)
LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Kent Clary (8:30) Alicia Lester-Bodford, Jeremy Clos (10:30)
CRUCIFER (10:30)	Alicia Lester-Bodford
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Hillmer, Catherine Maddox
ALTAR FLOWERS	Gail Till
LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN (10:30)	Keith Heikkinen
VESTRY REPRESENTATIVE	Yvette Smith
FELLOWSHIP (10:30)	Suzanne Colton

## Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina  
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338



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## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. George Black	Curate
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Christian Schoen	Organist and Choirmaster
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Kate Mohan	Diaconate Discernment Intern
Monique Holmes	Business Manager
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton