



The Holy Eucharist – Eucharistic Prayer B

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 • 8 a.m.

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in bold.

This type of note, offering directions about the service, is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red)—referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

The Word of God

THE ENTRANCE RITE

WELCOME

We acknowledge that our worship is taking place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing as able, the Presider says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer was an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.

The Presider may say

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.**

OPENING ANTHEM • TRISAGION: HOLY GOD

The Gloria, or some other song of praise, centers the service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.

The following is said, all standing (repeat three times).

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The People are seated for the lessons.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People remain seated.

THE RESPONSE

The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another.

Reader Our response to the first reading is Canticle 15: The Song of Mary, found in the service leaflet.
Please pray it with me.

CANTICLE 15: The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

THE SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter of James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

The People are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

**The Right Reverend Marty Stebbins
10th Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Montana**

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

The People stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity.

**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

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.

The People stand, sit, or kneel as they are able.

Intercessor The Prayers of the People are guided by Form 2, found on page 385 of the Book of Common Prayer and in the service leaflet. Please pray them with me.

Strengthen our hearts, Lord.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

For Sean Rowe our Presiding Bishop, and for Marty Stebbins our Bishop, and for our Holy Spirit clergy and lay leaders;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for the community of Great Falls and Church of the Incarnation, with Glenn Gleaves, as Associate Priest and Ryan Eikenbary, as Pastor;

For this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

For the leaders and people in warring countries, and for those serving and suffering in the face of natural and human-influenced distress and disasters.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

For those who live with chronic illness, are struggling with addiction, or are in recovery.

For our neighbors seeking safe shelter, food enough, community, and opportunities to be heard.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

For Holy Spirit to be a courageous and inviting community for seekers.

Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, as we pray today especially for Noel Walther, Andrea Wiley, Richard and Janellen Frohmader, Dorothy and Henry Wiley, George and Helen Clark, Kathleen Ballinger Fuller, Edwin George Ballinger, Elfie Gordon, and Mary Lou Cordis.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those on our prayer list who we lift to God now.

Let us pray silently for this group, and we invite you to take your leaflet home so you can pray for them individually during the week.

Silence

Bill B.

Bert and Nora Horton

Joan Chaussee

Betty Rice

Dolores Criswell

Lew and Robin Mueller

Nancy Callen

Kathy Adams

Paula and family

Michael Ayers and family

Family and friends of the Ruybalid family

Doug Harris and family

Tom Ard

Marleigh Flanigan

Jennifer, Mark and Jacob

Bob Simons

Robert Hadlow

Laura and Cannon

Linda T.

Christina Errebo

Barbara Behan

Dan

Jeanne

Jone and Jesse

Peter and Malcolm Smith

Anne

Dan

Sullivan

Graham

Peg

Janel

Paula

Tim

Ray

Shannon

Greg

Mary

Moe

Sam

Wanda

The staff and patients of Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City
Our immigrant and refugee neighbors
All who need shelter beyond what the Poverello and Meadlowlark can offer

I ask your thanksgiving for:

- Our partners in ministry in the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative and throughout the Diocese
- Holy Spirit volunteers who lovingly serve this parish and the people of our community

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.
Strengthen our hearts, Lord.

Silence

The Presider stands and says

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will;
and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All stand as able. The Presider says to the People.

 The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEARCH COMMITTEE PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

When this prayer is needed, the Celebrant and People say

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly; grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what You would have us to do, that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from false choices, and that in Your light we may see light, and in Your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ROSE ALTAR VESTMENTS

The Holy Communion

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

All are invited to make a gift to support Holy Spirit's ministry of sharing God's love with our community and the world by texting HOLYSPIRITGIVE to (833) 714-3270 or by visiting <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/>. You may also put your gift in the offering plate or by scanning the QR code below to give to the General Fund:



The altar is prepared for Holy Communion

DOXOLOGY

All say in unison as the Offering is received and blessed

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning “Lift up your hearts.”

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing as able.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The Lord be with you. |
| <i>People</i> | And also with you. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Lift up your hearts. |
| <i>People</i> | We lift them to the Lord. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. |
| <i>People</i> | 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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The People stand or kneel as able.

We recall God’s acts of salvation history. The presider says the “Words of Institution” that Jesus said at the Last Supper. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**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 [_____ 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.

The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only “Amen” in all capitals found in the Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation’s response.

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

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept. Then may be said*

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available, and you may drink from the common cup or dip your wafer in the intinction cup. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

PRAYER FOR SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

When this prayer is needed, the Celebrant and People say

In the name of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church we 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. We, who are many, are one body, because we all 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.

THE BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS FOR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Andrea Wiley, Richard and Janellen Frohmader, and Dorothy and Henry Wiley, by Jim Wiley; and in loving memory of our parents, George and Helen Clark, Kathleen Ballinger Fuller and Edwin George Ballinger, and grandmother Elfie Gordon, by Ken and Sharee Ballinger.



Participants in the Service

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Presider, Preacher and Celebrant</i> | <i>The Rt. Rev. Rev. Marty Stebbins</i> |
| <i>Co-Rectors</i> | <i>The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger</i> |
| <i>Deacon</i> | <i>The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis</i> |
| <i>Lector/Lay Eucharistic Minister</i> | <i>Leslie McShane</i> |
| <i>Usher</i> | <i>Anne Geiger</i> |
| <i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i> | <i>Margaret and Kevin Borg</i> |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | <i>Elaine Brown, Lori Cordis, Beverly Maas</i> |

GROW WITH US

Everything we do at Holy Spirit, including today's in-person and online services, is made possible because of people like you. We rely on your donations to make our mission and ministry possible. In these challenging times, your support is needed more than ever. If this service has been meaningful for you, we encourage you to give as you're able to help Holy Spirit continue to serve our community and the greater world. Visit <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/> or give on our church app or text **HOLYSPIRITGIVE** to **(833) 714-3270** to give on your smartphone. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

WE WELCOME THOSE NEW TO OUR WORSHIP!

Newcomers and guests are always welcome at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. Our service today uses the service leaflet, and a service leaflet is also available online. The QR code to access the bulletin page of the website is available in the pews. Just scan it with the camera on your phone. We hope you will take a moment to complete the blue Visitor's Card found in the pew and place it in the offertory plate as it passes.

WE WARMLY WELCOME BISHOP MARTY FOR HER ANNUAL VISITATION

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, the 10th Bishop of Montana, is here for her official visitation to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and Confirmation of a group of adults. **Being baptized and confirmed:** Jacob Foster. **Being confirmed:** Ian Ritchie.

You will have a chance to visit with Bishop Marty at a special coffee time following both the 8 a.m. and the 10:15 a.m. services. Please join us!

As is the custom in our diocese, an offering for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund will be taken at the service that day. Special Discretionary Fund envelopes are available for your use in the pews. Your checks should be paid to the order of "The Episcopal Diocese of Montana," designating on the memo line 'Discretionary Fund.' Or you can use our giving platform Pushpay to make your donation. Simply choose Bishop's Discretionary Fund from the list of funds available. It is from the Discretionary Fund that pastoral needs are met. Please be generous.

WRAPPING UP OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We're looking for parishioners who've just found their annual gift cards deep in their stack of mail. Yes, you! We gladly welcome your annual gift and hope you'll take the next step to send in your commitment of support for our Holy Spirit community. Annual gift cards are available in church in the pews or at the office. Or call 406-542-2167 for more information. Thank you to everyone who has made an annual gift for 2026! Our Stewardship campaign will wrap up soon.

As of Sunday, December 7, 145 households have gifted Holy Spirit \$402,771.50 or 96% of our total goal of \$420,000.00. Won't you join them with your support?

2025 ANNUAL GIFT PAYMENTS

In order for your **ANNUAL GIFT PAYMENTS** to appear on your 2025 statement, your annual gift payments must be received or postmarked by December 31. Payments received in January not postmarked by December 31, 2025 will be posted to your 2026 annual gift statement, even if the check is dated 2025. Please remember that our mail goes to Spokane for processing now, which adds an additional day to the mail time.

DON'T FORGET that you can make your year-end payments and set up your annual gift for next year on our giving platform **PUSHPAY**. Giving is easy and secure, and you have three different ways to give:

1. On our website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org on the "Give" page
2. On our app: text **HOLYSPIRITAPP** to **(833) 714-3270**
3. On your phone: text **HOLYSPIRITGIVE** to **(833) 714-3270**

FESTIVAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 21 at 7 p.m. In-person only

Join us for this beloved Advent tradition, as scripture and song weave the story of Christ's coming—from the Garden of Eden to the manger in Bethlehem. The choir and organ will be in splendid voice, offering carols and anthems that prepare our hearts for Christmas. A reception will follow in the parish hall, hosted by the Wholly Fun Committee. **This service will not be live-streamed or recorded.**

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship Services for Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

- **4:00 p.m.** Early Service with **all** ages in mind: A telling of the Christmas Story, simple familiar Carols, and Holy Eucharist. **This service will not be livestreamed.**
- **6:30 p.m.** Our Outdoor Service returns this year! Join us under the stars for a joyful, all-ages celebration filled with prayer, carol singing, and the glow of fire pits to warm our bodies and spirits. We'll end the evening with a candlelit singing of *Silent Night*—a beloved tradition that lifts hearts and brings peace. Please note: this service does not include Eucharist. Please do **dress warmly!**
- **10:00 p.m.** Traditional Choral Eucharist in the church with the singing of the choir and full congregational hymns. **This service will be livestreamed.**

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th

- **No services**

A NEW POST IS UP ON OUR BLOG

Confessions of a 'Church Tourist'

Have you ever found yourself drawn to stop inside a church while traveling, just to see what stories its walls might tell? In her latest blog post, *Confessions of a 'Church Tourist'*, Molly Bowler shares the joy of discovering sacred spaces across the world — from Westminster Abbey to a hidden gem in Lyon — and reflects on the peace and beauty found in these unexpected encounters. Come along for the journey and see why

opening the next church door is always worth it. You can read the blog post here:
<http://holyspiritmissoula.org/soundings/confessions-of-a-church-tourist/>.

JOIN OUR WOMEN'S GROUP: LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Looking for a welcoming space to grow in your faith alongside other women? Join our **Practicalities of Faith** group, where meaningful conversation and genuine community await you. All women are invited—bring a friend and experience support and inspiration together.

The group, led by Julie Benson, will meet on the following date in the Guild Room from 1-2:30 p.m.:

December 17

Please come as you are available! Registration is not required.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

An EmPower Pack Event on January 14

An EmPower Pack event will be held at the Missoula Food Bank on Wednesday, January 14th at 4:30 p.m. Holy Spirit participated in a similar event last August, and it was fun! It's a great activity for families and groups of friends. We need 30 volunteers to prepare these bags of food for kids who experience chronic hunger over the weekends. You can sign up in the parish hall after services on Dec. 14th.

December Food Bank Donations

A HUGE THANK YOU for your contributions to our Parish Hall Donation Basket! As we near the winter holidays let's help our friends and neighbors feel the wonder of the season with non-perishable warm foods and baking items such as: Dry/canned soups or beans, crackers, stuffing, canned pumpkin/cranberries, canned meats, applesauce and canned fruit, hot chocolate, marshmallows, oil, baking soda/powder, white/wheat flour, white/brown sugar, salt, seasonal spices, baking chips, nuts, cake/brownie/muffin mixes, or frosting.

Food Bank Cooking Classes

Do you have a filling family recipe that's perfect for those days the wind is howling outside? Tricks or tips for making dinner delicious? Did you know the Food Bank Community Center has their very own teaching kitchen? Reach out to Ashlee Schleicher at ashlee@missoulafoodbank.org to learn how you can teach your very own cooking class!

DONATIONS FOR FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise has expanded beyond housing and feeding homeless families at the Meadowlark and helping them find housing. It now supports and helps stabilize them during the first year in housing. Part of this support takes the form of kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom supplies for people who have had to do without these, living in their cars, in shelters, or with friends. We at Holy Spirit can help provide such supplies, either by purchasing them or streamlining what we have at home to donate unneeded items. **A list of supplies** will be in the back of the sanctuary for anyone interested to pick up. Your donations can be dropped off at the church office or given to me. I will be happy to pick them up. Thanks for your generosity and care.

Carla Mettling, HSP Family Promise Coordinator

406-203-7177 or carlamettling@gmail.com

WE'RE UPDATING OUR PRAYER LIST

An important part of our worship at Holy Spirit is the opportunity to pray by name for people in need. We pray for members of our congregation and for many others for whom our prayers are requested. **On January 4, we will make a fresh start with the Prayer List included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.** In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, we are asking for your help. If there is someone whose name you would like to have on the list, please give that information to Judy Parock (office@holyspiritmissoula.org). The renewed list will include only the names which have been sent to us and the names of our shut-in parishioners. We will renew the list again in six months' time. People may remain on the Prayer List for as long as necessary

because we know and understand that many needs are ongoing. However, when someone is ready to be removed from the list, we ask that you let us know. Thank you for your help and for your understanding.

HOLY SPIRIT VESTRY

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Co-Rector
The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger (retired), Co-Rector
Molly Bowler, Senior Warden
Charlie Swannack, Junior Warden
Blake Lineweaver, Clerk of Vestry
James Wiley, Treasurer

Vestry Members, listed with the year their terms expire:

2025
Alice Caplins
Patti Beckley
Blake Lineweaver
James Wiley

2026
Molly Bowler
Lance Collister
Glenn Hladek
Charlie Swannack

2027
Julie Benson
Keith Kuhn
Beverley Sherman
Jim Taylor