



Holy Baptism and Confirmation with Holy Eucharist

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 • 10:15 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

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Partita on 'Comfort, comfort ye'

Lynn Peterson

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song. The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • #76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Sung by all

Winchester New

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN MAY BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

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 Bishop says

Bishop Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Bishop then continues

SALUTATION FOR BAPTISM

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

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.

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Bishop 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. On Godly Play Sundays, the children and leaders leave at this time and return for Holy Eucharist.

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.

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.**

The People stand as able to sing the hymn.

SEQUENCE HYMN • #65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Sung by all

Bereden väg för Herran

The sequence hymn moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word—the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means “good news”—specifically the “good news of Jesus.”



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **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 for the hymn.

HYMN • #655*O Jesus, I have promised**Sung by all**Nyland*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end:
 2 O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee,
 be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;
 I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Bishop says

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors.

Sponsor I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Bishop asks each candidate when presented

Celebrant Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Then the Bishop asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

<i>Question</i>	Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
<i>Answer</i>	I renounce them.
<i>Question</i>	Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
<i>Answer</i>	I renounce them.
<i>Question</i>	Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
<i>Answer</i>	I do.
<i>Question</i>	Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
<i>Answer</i>	I do.
<i>Question</i>	Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
<i>Answer</i>	I do.

When there are others to be presented, the Bishop says

The other Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

<i>Bishop</i>	Do you believe in God the Father?
<i>People</i>	I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

<i>Bishop</i>	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
<i>People</i>	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

**was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of new birth [and for those (this person) who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.]

Bishop Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Then the Bishop says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Bishop blesses the water, first saying

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Bishop

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Bishop touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants* the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

*N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.***

Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer.

WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

When all have been baptized, the Bishop says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Bishop and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

AT CONFIRMATION

The Bishop says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

Silence may be kept.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your *servants* the covenant you made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand as able

The Bishop 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

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Marty Wheeler Burnett

DOXOLOGY • #380, vs. 3

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

Hymnal 1982

St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

This selection is in the public domain.

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 • S 124

Holy, holy, holy

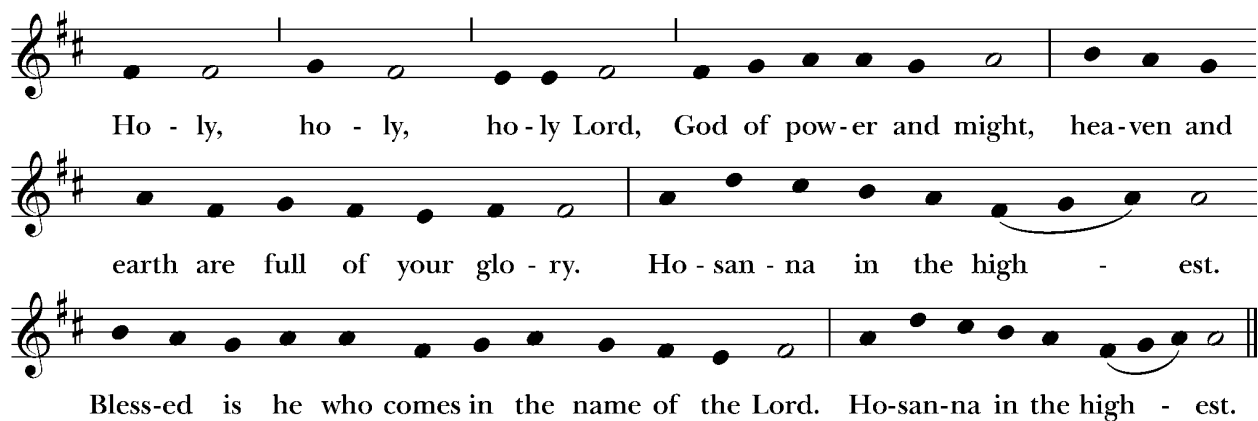
Sung by all

David Hurd

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

THE SANCTUS MAY BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.



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;**

The Celebrant continues

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

<i>Celebrant</i>	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
<i>People</i>	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.

COMMUNION HYMN • #75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Sung by all.

Ascension

THE COMMUNION HYMN MAY BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
 2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
 feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
 na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
 lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

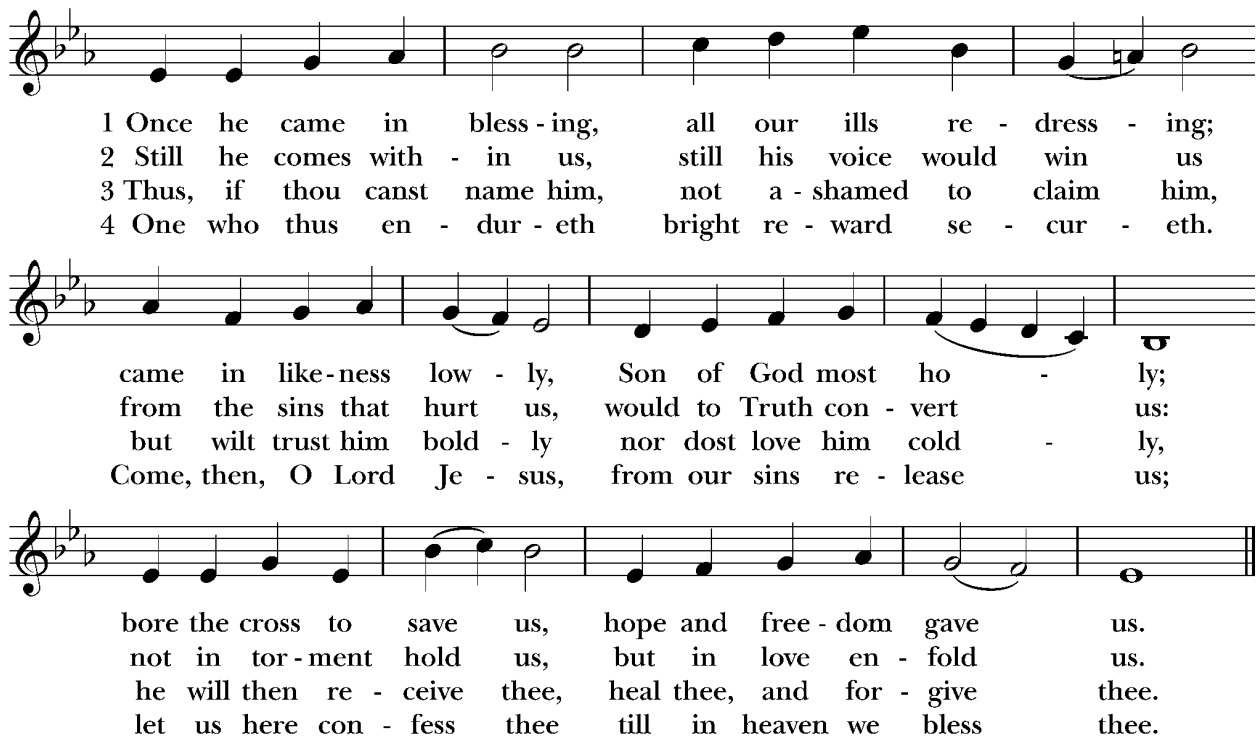
COMMUNION HYMN • #53

Once he came in blessing

Sung by all

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

THE COMMUNION HYMN MAY BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

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 Bishop blesses the people, saying

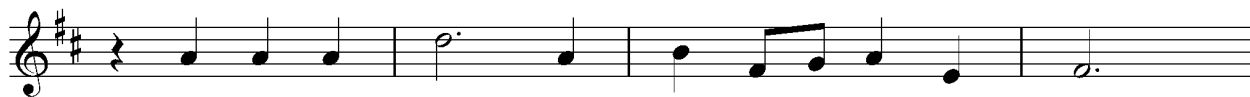
The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN • #438

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Sung by all

Woodlands



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

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.

POSTLUDE

Comfort ye my people

Georg Bohm

PRAYERS FOR TODAY are in loving memory of Andrea Wiley, Richard and Janellen Frohmader, and Dorothy and Henry Wiley, by Jim Wiley; and in loving memory of their 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. Marty Stebbins, Bishop of Montana</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>Director of Music</i>	<i>Dr. Nancy Cooper</i>
<i>Crucifer</i>	<i>Patrick King</i>
<i>Lectors/Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	<i>Ken Ballinger, Bart Bruns</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Bill and Elizabeth Drummond</i>
<i>Dove Kite</i>	<i>Mark Dvarishkis</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Tracey Gage, Barbara Hosier</i>
<i>Reception Hosts</i>	<i>Anne Cohen and the Reception Committee</i>
<i>Counters</i>	<i>The Church Office</i>
<i>Videographer</i>	<i>Kirk Johnson</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.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS IN GODLY PLAY

December in Godly Play is bringing stories of the Great Family and the mystery of Christmas, surrounded by prayer, song, and snacks. Come children, one and all, to share your wonder in Godly Play! See Deacon Dorcie for questions and to fill out a registration form.

Today our children will be staying in worship so they can experience both the Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Marty.

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.

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Words: St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?). Public domain. *Holy, holy, holy Lord, S 124.* From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-735459.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry. Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt. Public domain. *Prepare the way, O Zion.* Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. Composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920). Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697. Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-735459. *O Jesus, I have promised.* Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), alt. Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. David Evans (1874-1948). Music: Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-735459. *Come, thou long-expected Jesus.* Word: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music ©2018 Marty Wheeler Burnett. *There's a voice in the wilderness crying.* Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904). Music: © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-735459. *Once he came in blessing.* Words: Jan Rob (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1897-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534). Public domain. *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!* Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949). Words: Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved, Used by Permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-735459. All the music used today that is not covered by onelicense.net is in the public domain.

Our 10:15 a.m. worship service is livestreamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service, you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please see an usher to be reseated in a more private area.