



## The Holy Eucharist

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025 • 4 p.m.

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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*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 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

*Christmas Chorale Preludes*

### OPENING HYMN

#### HYMN • #83 (verses 1 & 3)

*O come, all ye faithful*

*Sung by all.*

*Adeste fideles*

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
This selection is in the public domain.

### WELCOME

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

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing as able, the Celebrant says*

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

## The Word of God

### THE COLLECT OF 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.*

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

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

*The people sit, and the children are invited to come forward to the bottom of the steps.*

### THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

**Michael Irwin, Storyteller**

*The Gospel will be told as a story and with children helping to complete the Crèche. Please listen for the storyteller to say when it's time to sing a verse and for the organ to lead us.*

### HYMN • *O Little Town of Bethlehem, sung by all*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
These words are in the public domain.

**HYMN • *Once in Royal David's City, sung by all***

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.  
These words are in the public domain.

**HYMN • *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, sung by all***

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Traditional carol  
These words are in the public domain.

**HYMN • *While shepherds watched their flocks by night, sung by all***

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground.  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

Nahum Tate (1625-1715)  
These words are in the public domain.

**HYMN • *Silent night, holy night, sung by all***

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
This selection is in the public domain.

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

## 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.*

*Intercessor*     The Prayers of the People today are guided by Form 6, found in the service leaflet. Please pray them with me.

Shine your true light, O Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In joy and in peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For your light to be poured upon all people in their daily life and work;  
***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For wise and peace-seeking leaders for this community, the nation, and the world;  
***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the sustainable, just, and proper use of your creation;  
***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For your mercy to be made real to all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the courage, peace, and unity of the Church of God;  
***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; and for Marty Stebbins, our Bishop; for our priests, deacons, and lay leaders at Holy Spirit and across the Diocese; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
***For all who serve God in God's Church.***

For those on our Holy Spirit prayer list, and for the special needs and concerns of those gathered here this afternoon.

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;  
***For your mercy is great.***

You bring good news of great joy for all people. We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We will forever rest in you. We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially this day for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given, for those lost to disease, destruction, or violence, and for any other neighbors and loved ones who we remember to you now.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

*Silence*

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# 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

*In dulci jubilo*

Dietrich Buxtehude

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### SURSUM CORDA

*The People remain standing, as able.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

God of surprises, your Spirit brooded over the waters at creation  
and lived among your chosen people  
in wilderness, exile, and promised land.  
Your Spirit filled Mary's womb at the moment of Jesus' conception  
and came upon him like a dove at his baptism.  
When Christ died on the cross  
your power raised him from the tomb on the third day,  
and that same evening he breathed your forgiving grace  
on those who had deserted him.  
On the day of Pentecost you sent your Spirit upon the fearful disciples,  
filling them with fire, with power, with wonder and joy,  
and making them your church.  
And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

### SANCTUS

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand or kneel as able.*

*The Celebrant continues*

God of comfort and strength, we look to your Holy Spirit  
to be with us in sorrow and in contentment,  
in crisis and in abiding stillness.  
Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,  
that we may be transformed into your image,  
and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
“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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

*Celebrant and people*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

God of dreams and prophecy, send down upon us  
your gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith;  
of healing, discernment, and interpretation,  
that your church may be built up in the likeness of your Son.

Let anyone who is hungry find in you the bread of life,  
and anyone who is thirsty find in you rivers of living water.

Speak your word to all who are alone and in fear or despair,  
and let each one of your children hear your voice in their own language,  
whether that language be art or science, work or play.

Sanctify your groaning creation,  
that your universe may breathe your breath and be filled with your life anew,  
that we may love what you love, and do what you would do.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **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 sung or said*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

## 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

*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.*

## 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 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 • #100 (verses 1 & 2)

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

*Sung by all.*

*Antioch*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.  
This selection is in the public domain.

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth carrying the light of the Prince of Peace.  
*People* Praise be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

*Fantasie on 'In dulci jubilo'*

J.S. Bach

### *Participants in the Service*

<i>Presider and Celebrant</i>	<i>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/Acolyte</i>	<i>Karen Simons Gartner</i>
<i>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</i>	<i>Michael Irwin, Karen Simons Gartner</i>
<i>The Story of Christmas</i>	<i>Michael Irwin</i>
<i>Intercessor</i>	<i>Christy Ann Brown</i>
<i>Usher</i>	<i>Warren Gartner</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Lori Cordis, Beverly Maas</i>

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Looking for an inclusive, supportive faith community? Want to engage your faith in a place of beauty and uplifting liturgy, a place that encourages questions and respects differences? Consider this your personal invitation to join us for worship or check out one of our many activities at [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org). Regular Sunday worship times return on Sunday, December 28, with services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

## THANK YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

As we gather to celebrate the joy of Christmas, we give heartfelt thanks to the many hands and hearts who make our worship possible. From ushers and Altar Guild members, to musicians, readers, and those who quietly prepare the sanctuary, your gifts of time and care bring beauty and welcome to Holy Spirit.

Your dedication shines as brightly as the candles on Christmas Eve, reminding us that the spirit of service is itself a gift of love. We are deeply grateful for each of you!

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

The Christmas flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Dale Rasmuson, by Diane Rasmuson; in loving memory of my parents Doreen and Fred Shafizadeh and my husband Thom Startin, by Zandy Startin; in loving memory of my friend JoAnn Gray, by Anne Cohen; in loving memory of Andrea Wiley, Richard and Janellen Frohmader, and Henry and Dorothy Wiley, by James Wiley; 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; in loving memory of my husband Arch Hosier, by Barbara Hosier; with love and prayers for my family and friends, past and present, by Carol McQuade; in gratitude and in loving memory of our parents, by Bill and Elizabeth Drummond; in celebration of our children and grandchildren, by Frank and Beverley Sherman; with joy, love, and gratitude for our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren, by Lucia Solorzano and Clem Work; in loving memory of their parents and brother Bob, by Tom and Nancy Storch; in loving memory of Margaret and Frank McClain and Mildred and Larry Tromly and Bob Tromly, by Mary Tromly; and in loving memory of Jean Wilcox, by her family.

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