



The Holy Eucharist: Rite II, Enriching Our Worship 3

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
January 11, 2026 • 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

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

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Please stand as able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing as able, the Presider says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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

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

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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.

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The People are seated for the lessons.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

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.

¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.”

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶“I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
 ⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

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

Remain seated.

Reader Our response to the first reading is Psalm 29, found in the service leaflet. Please pray it with me.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
⁸The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
 and strips the forests bare.
⁹And in the temple of the LORD *
 all are crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹**The LORD shall give strength to his people; ***
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

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.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and the other Gentiles]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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.

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

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The People are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

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 Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier

The People stand as able.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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.**

All remain standing, as able, or sit or kneel.

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 are guided by Form 4 found on page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer and in the service leaflet. Please pray them with me.

Lord, your voice is upon the waters.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the church in the Anglican Church in the Central American Region. In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the community of Jeffers-Ennis and the congregation of Church of the Trinity with Beverley Bishop as Senior Warden. We also pray for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; and for Marty Stebbins, our Bishop; and for our priests, deacons, and lay leaders at Holy Spirit and across the Diocese.

Silence

God of love and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God of love and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God of love and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God of love and mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Today we pray especially for those on our prayer list, and we invite you to take your leaflet home so you can continue to pray for them during the week.

Bill B.	Marleigh Flanigan	Dan
Bert and Nora Horton	Jennifer, Mark and Jacob	Sullivan
Joan Chaussee	Bob Simons	Graham
Dolores Criswell	Robert and Christine Hadlow	Peg
Lew and Robin Mueller	Laura and Cannon	Janel
Nancy Callen	Linda T.	Paula
Kathy Adams	Christina Errebo	Tim
Paula and family	Barbara Behan	Carol
Michael Ayers and family	Dan	Wanda
Family and friends of the Ruybalid family	Jeanne	Greg
Doug Harris and family	Jone and Jesse	Mary
Tom Ard	Peter and Malcolm Smith	Moe
Diana Plyley	Ann Rennie	Sam

The staff and patients of Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City
 Our immigrant and refugee neighbors
 For our neighbors at the Poverello Center, and all who need shelter beyond what the Poverello and Meadowlark can offer

For an end to harm of the innocent, and a just path forward towards peace in war zones.

For your presence to wash over all people, and especially for those who are sick, in any kind of prison, oppressed, addicted, suicidal, fearful, or without enough food, shelter, or sense of community.

And for any other people, needs, and concerns on our hearts today.

God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We remember and commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially today for Ella Engel and Trudy Sherman and for any others you may wish to remember.

Silence

God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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.***

CONFESSON OF SIN

The Deacon or Presider says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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

THE PEACE

The People stand as able.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the 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.***

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

The People stand as able. 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 our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

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 kneel or stand as able.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

Then the Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.
Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
gave it to his friends and said:
"Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ's coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ.
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,
and in the fullness of time gather us
with [blessed _____, and] all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

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.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

The Celebrant then continues

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us,

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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

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.

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.

The People may join in saying this prayer

God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

**and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

The priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their mothers, Ella Engel and Trudy Sherman, by Beverley and Frank Sherman.

♦ ♦ ♦

Participants in the Service

Presider, Preacher, and Celebrant	<i>The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier</i>
Deacon	<i>The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis</i>
Lector/Lay Eucharistic Minister	<i>Judy Parock</i>
Usher	<i>Anne Geiger</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Lori Cordis, Beverly Maas, Elaine Brown</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.

JANUARY 11 – ALMS SUNDAY TO SUPPORT THE POVERELLO CENTER

Most, if not all, Holy Spirit parishioners have heard of the Poverello Center. We know that every January for the past ten years we have collected socks and hats and gloves and scarves to help people stay warm during our coldest months. Many of us will have heard that Holy Spirit is joining other Missoula Churches in a shelter program, to house homeless citizens of our city during the coldest days of this winter. But how many of us really know all that the Poverello Center offers our community?

This Sunday we will welcome Erin Heaton, the Community Engagement Coordinator at the Pov, to learn about all that this important organization does. Hint – it's not just a homeless shelter! Join us to learn how much more the Poverello Center does for our community, and to have the opportunity to support their important work.

A special offering will be taken at both services and through Holy Spirit online, either through our giving app Pushpay or on the Holy Spirit website here: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/give/>. Just choose "Poverello Center" from the dropdown menu of funds.

OUR ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE FOR THE POV CONTINUES THIS SUNDAY

Let's start 2026 the same generous way we Holy Spirit parishioners have begun every year since 2016: by donating socks, scarves, hats and gloves to our houseless brothers and sisters who reside at the Poverello Center and Johnson Street Shelter. The collection, which began on Sunday, January 4, will conclude on Sunday, January 18. The easily recognizable red-and-white striped box is located in the parish hall. A second more modest plastic bin has been set on the porch by the church office for receiving items for extended hours outside the building.

We welcome items that are hand-knit, store-bought or gently used. Please remember: socks should be made from wool or synthetic fabrics such as Thermolite. **PLEASE NO COTTON.** Cotton does not keep out the cold and fails to wick away moisture, making feet feel cold and damp. Houseless men and women who sleep at the Poverello Center and Johnson Street Shelter spend many of their daytime hours outside in our cold, snowy and windy winter weather. As a result, these facilities go through many, many pairs of socks and other wooly items in a single day. Thanks so much for your help with this important drive

– Lucia Work, Social Concerns Committee

EMERGENCY COLD-WEATHER HOUSING: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This winter, Holy Spirit is joining five Missoula churches to offer emergency overnight shelter when temperatures drop to 10° or below. For two weeks—Feb 1–7 and Feb 22–28—our Parish Hall will serve as an overflow sleeping site for up to 20 people when the Poverello Center is full.

Missoula Interfaith Cooperative will provide trained overnight staff, transportation, and morning cleanup. The Poverello will screen guests and supply mats and blankets. Our role is simple but meaningful: offering a warm, safe space.

We need a small team of parish volunteers to help welcome guests at 8 p.m. (a 30–45 minute commitment) and to assist Rev. Terri and Rev. Gretchen in the mornings with coffee and a simple breakfast.

If you feel called to help with evening welcome or morning hospitality, please contact the church office. Your presence can make a real difference on the coldest nights of the year.

To read the full article about this project, visit our website: <http://holyspiritmissoula.org/news-updates/were-joining-missoula-churches-to-provide-emergency-cold-weather-housing/>.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 25

Holy Spirit's **ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on Sunday, January 25, in the parish hall following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please plan to join us! A light meal will be served at a cost of \$5. Reservations for the meal will be taken after services starting January 11, or you may call the church office at (406) 542-2167 before January 21. **A sign-up sheet is in the parish hall and at the back of the church.**

DELEGATES NEEDED FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION

If you would like nomination as a **DELEGATE TO NEXT FALL'S DIOCESAN CONVENTION** to be held September 25-27 at St. James' Episcopal Church in Bozeman, please telephone the church office at (406) 542-

2167 before January 21. Delegates will be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 25. Holy Spirit is entitled to 6 delegates.

MEET THE NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

The members of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will be electing four members to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 25. These four members will each serve a three-year-term. Those who have accepted nomination to the Vestry are Patti Beckley, Anne Geiger, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, and Leslie McShane. In order for you to better know the people who have been nominated to the Vestry, the Nominating Committee of the Vestry would like to offer the following profiles on the website at https://s3.amazonaws.com/account-media/16947/uploaded/v/0e20759047_1767747658_vestry-2026-bios-4-of-4final.pdf.

“BABETTE’S FEAST AND THE THEOLOGY OF FOOD”: A MOVIE AND DISCUSSION WITH VALERIE HESS

Join us this afternoon beginning at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall. We will talk about the theological (and political) implications of food and food production and then watch the movie, “Babette’s Feast.” This 1987 movie is based on a story by Isak Dineson and won an Oscar for best foreign film.

NOTE: this movie has subtitles so bring the correct glasses! Popcorn will be served and feel free to bring any other movie snacks you prefer. Also, additional resources will be available to purchase for \$5.00.

After the movie, which is less than 2 hours long, we will have a short discussion about the themes in the movie.

As we continue our focus on issues of food and food insecurity as a parish, join us for a discussion on a side of the issue not often mentioned. Questions? Contact Valerie Hess hess.valerie@gmail.com

BE PART OF THE WELCOME: SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour after church is an important ministry for building community and fostering fellowship. It allows parishioners to connect, offer mutual support, welcome newcomers and deepen relationships in a relaxed setting, which reinforces church unity and belonging. Signup sheets for parishioners to host Coffee Hour can be found in the Parish Hall on the serving table (on Sunday) or on the counter (weekdays). If you have never done Coffee Hour or need someone to help you, Sue and Diane are always available to do it with you and if necessary “show you the ropes”. The focus of Coffee Hour is on a relaxed setting so hosts are encouraged to either bake or purchase items that could be served on a napkin such as cheese/ crackers, fruit/ veggies or cookies/ bars. Donut holes are always popular, for example. If you would like to contribute to Coffee Hour but are physically unable to, talk to Sue who will purchase the necessary treats and arrange for Coffee Hour to be done on your behalf. Signup sheets are waiting for your signatures, so please consider taking part in this small but important ministry.

Sue Lowery: slower14@gmail.com

Diane Rasmuson: dianerasmuson@gmail.com

THE GIFT THAT IS THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Join me Tuesday, January 13 and 20, 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. as we delve into the practicalities of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP): the treasure trove it is to us and the many ways it can be used beyond Sunday worship time. Whether you are a cradle Episcopalian or new to the word Episcopal, come engage the BCP with me! ~Rev. Terri

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 dates in the Guild Room from 1-2:30 p.m.:

January 14 and 29

February 11 and 18

March 11 and 25

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

RESOLVE NOW TO ATTEND THE JANUARY 15 WHITE ELEPHANT POTLUCK

Bring your favorite board or building game. A cribbage, checkers, or backgammon board. A deck or two of cards. Your lucky set of dice! A fun game that can be completed in a reasonably short time. The prizes? Well, we're asking you to bring those, too, to our White Elephant Potluck. Something that passes as "new" and in working condition that just does not fit into your lifestyle. A Christmas gift you wonder why you received. A book you'll never read, or certainly not again. A toy you're too young or old for. A tool or hobby kit you still haven't figured out. A fun clothing or jewelry item that's just not you. Something you already have plenty of. Something someone else will love.

Oh, yes, and a generous dish of your favorite making to share at dinner! We'll begin eating at 5:30 and then play games until you and your guests are ready to head home – with your new White Elephant, a full tummy, and great memories of your evening with our Holy Spirit family. Mark your calendars for a fun potluck event on January 15.

LEARN ABOUT MISSOULA'S HOUSING ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE JANUARY 18

Missoula's faith communities have been working through Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (M.I.C.) for the past decade to take on many challenges. The Meadowlark-Family Housing Center is one major accomplishment.

In January 2025, many of our faith communities came together again to decide the next significant impact they wanted to have. The number one focus chosen was creating affordable transitional and permanent housing for families who are trying to regain stability.

Now our congregations are pooling assets and imagination to see just how big of an impact we can have. We want to create a reality in Missoula where:

1) If families do lose housing, they have shelter right away; and 2) All families regain stability and social connection.

We need enough affordable transitional and affordable housing for families. What are the possibilities we see?

1) Master Leasing 4-plexes and 8-plexes from property owners willing to make a marginal profit yet take below market rent while M.I.C. ensures properties are cared for and full.

2) Congregations build Just Neighbors Teams that walk with and support families as they stabilize in their new housing.

3) Building permanent affordable housing on congregational land with low or no interest financing.

Come to learn more during our worship services and fellowship time on January 18.

BOOK STUDY: *FOOD FOR THOUGHT*

Starting January 24, Sara Streeter and Carla Mettling will lead a 5-week book study "Food for Thought" where participants will read Mark Bittman's *Animal, Vegetable, Junk* and Sophie Egan's *How to be a Conscious Eater*. Bittman follows the ways people got their food throughout history, from being hunter-gatherers, to farmers, to cash crop workers, to junk-food consumers, and how such practices shaped their societies and lives. Egan, on the other hand, focuses on making us informed food shoppers who foster the planet, farmers, animals, and ourselves by the choices we make in food shopping.

The group will meet in the Guild Room on Saturday morning from 10 to 11:30, from January 24 to February 21. Those interested should get these books and start reading. The study will conclude with a special Conscious Eating Potluck for the whole parish, on Wednesday evening, March 4.

Please let us know that you are interested in joining the book study by emailing Sara Streeter at streetersaras@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed for 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. This is a wonderful activity for families, youth, and groups of friends to share in service and fellowship. **Please sign up today in the parish hall and bring a friend!** Together, we can make a big difference for kids in our community.

Envelope Assembly for the Missoula Food Bank

 Parish Hall

 Tuesday, January 13 at 5:00 PM

 Tuesday, January 20 at 5:00 PM

As the new year begins, let's carry the spirit of giving forward. Join us for a simple, hands-on way to support the Missoula Food Bank's vital mission. By folding, stuffing, and sealing fundraising envelopes, we help stretch their resources—and ensure more neighbors are fed with dignity.

This joyful volunteer opportunity is easy, social, and deeply impactful. Whether you come for one evening or both, your time helps turn paper into possibility. Bring a friend, share a laugh, and be part of something meaningful. To sign up, text or call Rosemary at 406-570-7074, or add your name to the sheet in the Parish Hall.

Let's start the year with hearts full and hands busy—because every envelope is a step toward a fuller table for someone in need.

January Food Bank Donations

We thank you for your continued generosity with food bank donations. To begin the New Year, we are focusing on **shelf-stable essentials for babies**. Please consider bringing diapers of all sizes, wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, powder, formula, baby food, infant cereal, biscuits, toddler snacks, and juice boxes.

HOLY SPIRIT'S WINTER BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR FEBRUARY 12

Holy Spirit Parish will host its annual winter blood drive on **Thursday, February 12, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. You can sign up for an appointment to donate blood using the Red Cross scheduling system at www.redcrossblood.org.

If you're not able to donate, you can still help by volunteering at the drive. Contact **Audrey Murray at 612-968-2108 or audreymurray196@gmail.com** to sign up. Together, we can make a life-saving difference.

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. Contact me if you have donations, and I will be happy to pick them up. Thanks for your generosity and care.

Carla Mettling, HSP Family Promise Coordinator

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	2026	2027
Alice Caplins	Molly Bowler	Julie Benson
Patti Beckley	Lance Collister	Keith Kuhn
Blake Lineweaver	Glenn Hladek	Beverley Sherman
James Wiley	Charlie Swannack	Jim Taylor