

# Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 10:30am

The Rt. Reverend Russell Kendrick, Bishop The Reverend William M. Lowry III, Rector

## The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

People O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Show us your mercy, O Lord.
People And grant us your salvation.

Celebrant Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from light,

leads us into the light and reveals his holiness.

With confidence let us make our prayer:

People Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us.

People Awaken our faith from sleep.

Celebrant Guard us from all harm today.

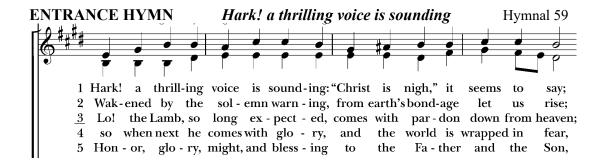
People May your glory fill us with joy.

Celebrant Give us unfailing gentleness at all times,

People toward everyone we meet.

Celebrant Come to create a new earth for us,

People where there will be justice and peace. Amen.



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"Cast a - way the
                       works of dark-ness,
                                                   ye child-ren
                                              0
                                                                    of
                                                                         the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all
                        sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the
                                                                  morn-ing skies.
                                             one and all
         us haste, with
                        tears of sor - row,
                                                                    be
                                                                         for - given;
                                             and with words of
         he with his
                        mer - cy shield us,
                                                                   love draw near.
   may
   with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit
                                             while un - end - ing
                                                                    a - ges run.
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## The Word of God

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

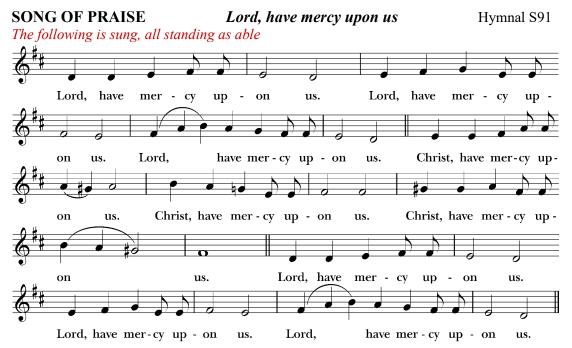
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

BCP p. 355

The Celebrant 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*.



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

## The Lessons

The people sit.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from the book of Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

## PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Please read with me the Psalm responsively by half verse. (Responses in bold.)

Give the king your justice, O God, \*

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

<sup>2</sup>That he may rule your people righteously \*

and the poor with justice;

<sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

like showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*

who alone does wondrous deeds!

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be his glorious Name forever, \*

and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

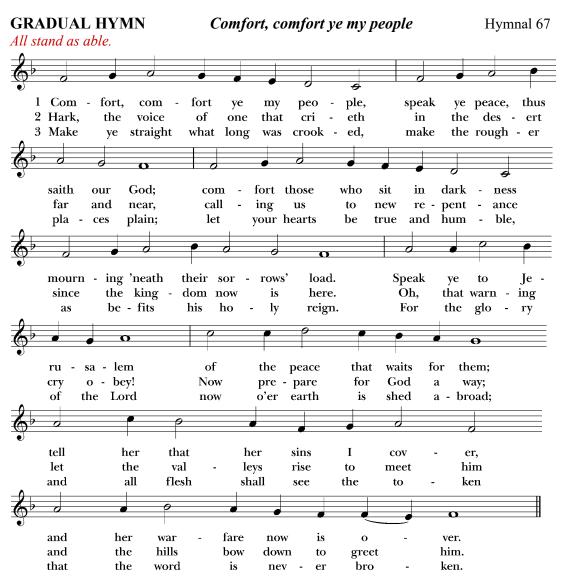
A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.



#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

All stand as able.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Will Lowry

Brief moment of silence to follow.

THE CREED BCP p. 358

#### All stand as able.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing as able.

Celebrant: The reign of God has come near. Let us prepare the way of Christ and bear fruit worthy of repentance, as we bring our prayers to God, saying: Blest is God's glorious Name forever; may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Litanist: Gracious and loving One, guide your Church Universal with the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, that we may welcome all people just as Christ has welcomed us. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Russell, our Bishop; Will, our Rector; and all other clergy and ministers of your church.

Blest is God's glorious Name forever;

## may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Infinite One, guide the leaders of the nations and all in authority, that with righteousness they may judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek. We pray especially for Donald, our President; Kay, our Governor; Robert, our Mayor and Tony, Mayor of Orange Beach.

Blest is God's glorious Name forever;

## may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Holy and Reconciling Wisdom, let the earth be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea, and let your peaceful kingdom come, when the wolf shall live with the lamb, and they will not hurt or destroy in all your holy creation. We pray especially for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine and all victims of violence. Bring your peace to our world. We pray for all First Responders, Law Enforcement and Members of the Armed Forces, both at home and abroad, especially our parishioner Chris.

Blest is God's glorious Name forever;

## may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Source of Wisdom and Grace, pour upon this community the abundance of your peace, that we may live in harmony with one another, and with one voice glorify your Name.

Blest is God's glorious Name forever;

## may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Hear the concerns and intercessions which we bring to your compassion, praying especially for our parishioners Cal, Carol, Mike, Norma, Al, Norma, Kimberly, Jane, Jackie, Ava, Dawn, Pam, Daphne, Anne, Sonya, Sara, Evie, Joy, Doris, Amy, Alyson, Ella, Allie, Keri, Peter, Lee, Elias and all on our prayer list.

We rejoice with gratefulness for the many blessings of life.

We commend to your eternal care those who have died.

Blest is God's glorious Name forever;

## may all the earth be filled with your glory.

Celebrant: God of steadfastness and encouragement, hear our prayers for the whole creation: Baptize us with Holy Spirit and fire; fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope in the power of your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 359

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

## Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## The Priest stands and says

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

THE PEACE BCP p. 360

All stand as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord 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 David Adams

# The Holy Communion

**OFFERTORY** BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

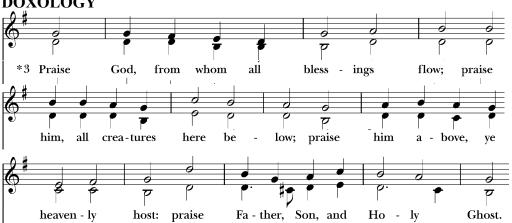
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2* 

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM Prepare the Way, O Zion

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

### DOXOLOGY



# The Great Thanksgiving

## **Eucharistic Prayer B**

The People remain standing as able.

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

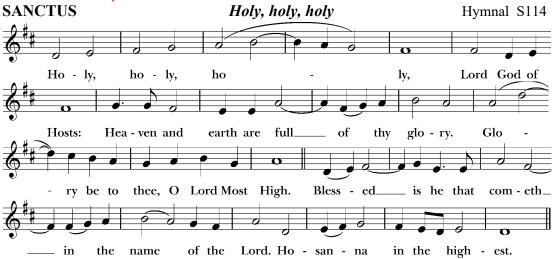
## Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

## Celebrant and People



BCP p. 367

## The People stand or kneel as able. 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the 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.

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

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.

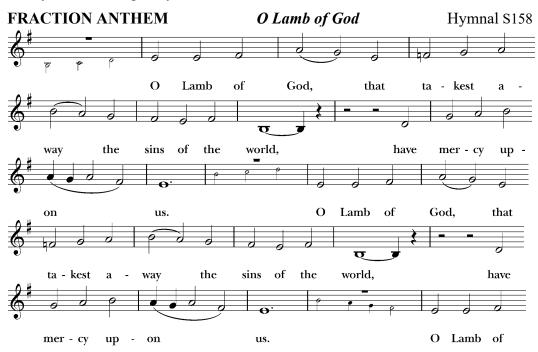
For thine is the kingdom,

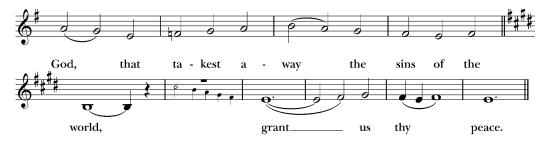
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

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





#### INVITATION

#### The Celebrant says

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before, You who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, everyone, not because the Church invites you; It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

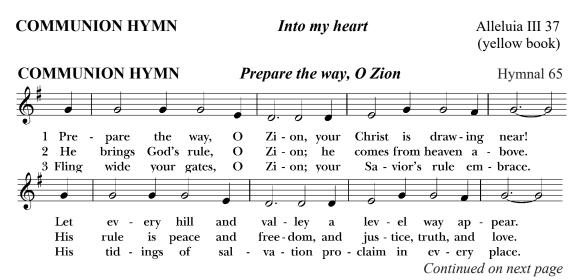
#### DISTRIBUTION

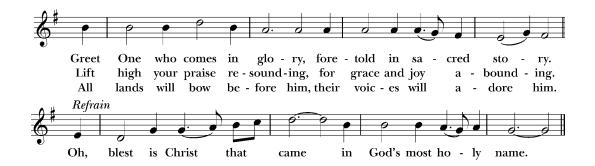
The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. Wine may be received by drinking from the chalice or by intinction.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]





#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 365

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.

#### BLESSING

## The Priest blesses the people, saying

As you leave this place, go forth in peace. Be assured that the past is forgiven and know that the future is in God's hands. Return no evil for evil, remember the poor, pray for the sick, and make no peace with injustice in this world. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen* 



#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

#### WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All who seek to know God in a deeper and more meaningful way are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive the Sacraments, just cross your arms and a blessing will be given instead. Gluten free communion wafers are available. Please ask the priest as communion is distributed.

**NURSERY**: We provide a nursery for your convenience for infants and children up to 4 years old. The nursery opens at 9am. We invite you to bring your child back from the nursery for communion, preferably during the Peace and Announcements.

Those for whom we pray: Cal & Carol Hanson, Mike & Norma Minchew, Katherine Stribling (Jan Waggoner), Marilyn Lewis (Lillian Bemis), Carrietta Nelson (Lillian Bemis), Al Vondrasek, Norma Black-Glossop, Kathi Dolder (Sue Wiggins), Judi Kuntz (Ann Lofaro), Kimberly Worthy, Deloma Bigham (Rhonda Barber), Laura Hermecz (Lillian Bemis), Jane Taylor, Jayne Sharp (Lillian Bemis), Abe & Dianne Kattawar (Rose Johnson), Lisa Kanuth (Kimberly Worthy), Mikki Stanley (Kimberly Worthy), Terry Kilpatrick (Lillian Bemis), Jackie Jabour, Ava Trivett, Mary Ruth Burnes (Lillian Bemis), Valerie Wilk (Lillian Bemis), Dawn Johnson, Pam Webster, Daphne Grimsley, Anne Meydrech, Matthew Gilbertson (Sam Nelson), Sonya Urquhart, Kimberly & Ken Brand (Jan Waggoner), Justin Requena (Carolyn Towery), Sara Walker, Helen Lauderdale & family (Witt Lauderdale), Evie Loftin, Joyce Marie Borck (Norma Black-Glossop), Melissa Mackey (Lillian Bemis), Joy Howell, Doris Kimmerlin, Sherry Jo Johnson (Rose Johnson), Melinda DeGraw (Evie Loftin), Nancy & Mark Varljen (Jan Waggoner), Pat Pickett (Rose Johnson), Amy Pride, Alyson, Ella & Allie Signa, Charlotte Green & the Green Family, Keri McIntosh, Tim Worthy (Lillian Bemis), Jerrica Stallings (John & Karan Stomps), Jake Pickett (Rose Johnson), Audra Mund (Ellie Brandon), Peter Davis, Lee Reid, Dan Ratliff, Henry (Jan Waggoner), Madelyn Grace (Jan Waggoner), Barbara Langevin (Ellie Brandon), David & Barbara Monaghan (Ellie Brandon), Elias Johnson (newborn of Sandria & Emmett Johnson), Carol Lautenschlager (Nancy Campbell)

For all First Responders, Law Enforcement and Members of the Armed Forces: Phil Gurney (USN), Blake Buskens (USA), Charlie Conner (USA), Chris Miller (GSPD), Joseph Callaway (USN), Savannah Kichler Isenburg (USAF), Jacob Wetzler (USN), Luc Lau (USM), Jack Taylor (USN), Snap Nelson (USMCR), Callaway Williamson (USN), Cailan Ross Ashley (USCG), Joshua Cooper (USA), Margaret Lloyd (USN), Aiden Rivera (USA)

In Thanksgiving for Birthdays in December: Paula Marion (4<sup>th</sup>), Dick Blake (6<sup>th</sup>), Jackie Jabour (10<sup>th</sup>), Norah Grace Lowry (12<sup>th</sup>), Janece Allgood (13<sup>th</sup>), James Howell (13<sup>th</sup>), Norma Black-Glossop (19<sup>th</sup>), Jeanie Blake (19<sup>th</sup>), William Ludwig (20<sup>th</sup>)

In Thanksgiving for Anniversaries in December: Rhonda & Joe Barber (29<sup>th</sup>)

### **Servers**

Acolyte/Chalice Bearer-David Adams

Lectors-Jeanie Blake & Fr. Bill Ericson

Ushers- Joe & Rhonda Barber

Altar Guild- Joy Branch, Nancy Campbell, June Hayles,

Fr Bill Ericson, Leah Reader, Tomi Bree Shaw

Flower Guild- Brenda Johnson

Beadle- Joe Barber

#### Vestry

Dave Liebenow ('26), Sr. Warden Sam Nelson ('25), Jr. Warden Nancy Campbell ('25), Clerk John Stomps ('25)

David Adams ('26)

Joe Barber ('26)

Millie Ericson ('27)

Brenda Johnson ('27)

Dan Ratliff ('27)

## Staff

The Rev. Will Lowry-Rector

Dr. Julian Jesubatham-Music Director

Greg Engell-Assistant Music Director

Morgen Szapiel-Parish Administrator

Ivee Lowry-Day School Director

Kim Payne-Thrift Shop Manager

## **Contact Us**

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# **2026 Pledge Cards**

Digital and paper pledge cards are now available. Scan the QR Code below to access the digital pledge card. Paper pledge cards will be available in the Parish Hall, church office, and mailed upon request.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider the amount you would like to pledge. Your contribution is invaluable and deeply appreciated in supporting the Church's efforts to achieve its goals. Kindly returning pledge cards by December 21, 2025 will greatly assist in planning for the 2026 budget year.

