

CHRIST & SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST**  
DECEMBER 28, 2025, 10:15 A.M.

*All page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.  
Service music, marked with an 'S', may be found in the front portion of the hymnal.*

**PRELUDE:** Greensleeves

*Richard Purvis*

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell.*

**OPENING HYMN 92:** On this day, earth shall ring

*Personet Hodie*

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

**B**ELOVED in Christ, be it this Christmas season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this community glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of this whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city of Norfolk. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the outcast, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; or all who have grieved our Lord Jesus and his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus Christ, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in union with the sacrifice of our Lord. Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the lessons and stand for the singing of the hymns.*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

**I** WILL greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

**HYMN 84:** Love came down at Christmas

*Gartan*

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

**I**N that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

**HYMN 94 V. 1-4:** While shepherds watched their flocks

*Winchester Old*

### THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:15-21

**W**HEN the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 89 V. 1, 3:** It came upon the midnight clear

*Carol*

### FOURTH LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

**W**HEN the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 105 V. 1, 4:** God rest you merry, gentlemen

*God Rest You Merry*

### FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

**I**N the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**HYMN 115 V. 1, 3:** What child is this

*Greensleeves*

## **SIXTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

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

**HYMN 109 V. 1, 2, 6:** The First Nowell

*The First Nowell*

## THE COLLECT *(remain standing)*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Lully, lulla, lullay

*Philip Stopford*

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.  
Lullay, thou little tiny Child,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his owne sight,  
All young children to slay.

O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!  
And ever mourn and sigh,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift 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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface.*

...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:** Hymnal S 128

*William Mathias*

*The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.*

### **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues...*

... 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**FRACTION ANTHEM:** Hymnal S 165

*William Mathias*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

#### *Communion at Christ & St. Luke's:*

- At the indication of the usher, please move to the center aisle and proceed up the altar rail. Move to the open spot filling in from the center of the rail to the wall.
- Kneel as you are able and place one hand over the other, palms up, to receive the bread.
- To sip from a chalice to receive the wine, consume the bread leaving your palms empty.
- To intinct (dip) your wafer into the wine, hold it between your thumb and forefinger.
- Once the chalices have passed, exit out the side and back down the side aisles to your pew.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the priest know you require one. If you prefer not to receive the bread or wine but would like a blessing, gently cross your arms across your chest. A standing station is also available in front of the pulpit.

**COMMUNION MUSIC:** Away in a manger + Silent night  
*Christine Jones, piano*

*arr. Christine Jones*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM:** Away in a manger  
*For text, see Hymnal 101.*

*Traditional Normandy*

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

*Celebrant* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 93**

*Regent Square*

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE:** Toccata on Antioch

*Craig Phillips*

*The Christmas Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the people of Christ and St. Luke's.*



Christ & St. Luke's  

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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