



January 4, 2026
Second Sunday after Christmas
Holy Eucharist — Rite II
9 & 11 a.m.

Welcome!

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. You may receive from the common cup by drinking directly from the cup or handing the host to the LEM (the person giving you the cup). They will then dip the host in the wine and place it in your hand. You may also choose to just consume the bread and cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine.

If you do not want to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward. Cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing.

Nametags are available in the pews. Please participate by wearing one so we can know the names of those people who sit next to us.

Listening assistance devices are available – ask any usher.

Children's worship bulletins and bags are located in the vestibules.

PRELUDE

Joseph Rheinberger

Organ Sonata No. 4, Mvt. 1

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*stand as able*)

1982 Hymnal #118

Brightest and Best

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 357

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

by Joseph Rheinberger

I Expectation

The earth is still, the stars brightly gleaming,
their light shine's bright; from far heaven streaming.
With mystery, the palm trees are sighing, the earth keeps watch.
The whole earth is waiting.

Over stream and sea, vale and mountain straying.

The quiet winds are lightly blowing.

Though withered now, the flowers are lying,
their fragrance now the chill air defying.

Hovering unseen, through the dark night's gleaming;
After anxious fears-Light, comfort is streaming.

Earth open your arms! From heaven it comes, as soft rain caressing;
Earth open your arms to heavenly blessing. Earth open your arms!

II The Shepherds

O bless Thou our pastures Maker of all,

You know all that shepherd and fold may befall.

Guard us!

over the starlight Thine eye keeps watch, Look on us by day,
through darkness of night.

We praise Thee O Lord, Thy rich blessing impart; Thou faithful,
eternal, Thy children we are.

Guard us!

But woe to the nations that thy way forsake, who 'gainst Thy
command, with sinners partake!

Thou rulest the night and Thou rulest the day; thrice help us be
watchful and faithful always!

III Appearance of the Angel

Angel: Be not afraid! For lo, God heareth the lowly in prayer.

I bring unto you Salvation free, that to all nations joy shall be;

In Bethlehem, city of David, for you this day, this night is born:

Christ, Christ the Lord! Christ, Christ the Lord! Christ, Christ the Lord!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia...

Angel: This sign I give, proclaiming; all wrapped in swaddling
clothes 'tis lying;

And in a manger, a lovely Child, the Holy Child.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Glory to God in the highest; and peace upon earth,
goodwill toward men!

IV Bethlehem

Bass Solo: The halo fadeth, all silent the heavenly choir.

And the shepherds uplift their faces from earth once more.

With reverence filled, the wonderful tidings to know.

Prepare for the journey and leaving the flocks, forth they go.

Bethlehem, hasten, remembering the angels word;

Approach all adoring, the lowly abode.

They find there the Mother and in the manger, the Child:

Christ, Christ the Lord, Christ, Christ the Lord!

V Adoration of the Wisemen

O Thou our King, in lowly stall, before thee in dust low we bow
The angels' jubilant song recall and hear in our hearts e'en now.
Receive our incense, myrrh and gold, gifts of the Orient we bring;
To Thee, O King be our service told, we live 'neath Thy sheltering wing.

Bass: As incense ascend our prayers to Thee, before Thy face arise.

Baritone: O open the door of mercy free, no suppliant soul despise.

Tenor: The myrrh is sign of bitterness Thou camest to endure;
Since Thou Thyself to suffer chose, It's sting Thou too canst cure.

All: As purest gold, our love remain, from dross us free refine.
And all our riches, treasure gain, all these O King be Thine!

VI Mary

Soprano Solo: Silence fills the Holy place, even the Wisemen journey
homeward now.

As the Holy dream their minds retrace; all they have seen
of heaven's great joy.

One small waning taper burns, near the cradle gently shining.
There the mother lowly bowed, holy prayer her lips divining;
Thro' the Child is God awowed!

And her soul she lifts on high in a strange Magnificat!
To the Child alone whispers blest, now all she has understood;
All locked in silent peace in her breast.

Christ looks on her there, deeper than the sea His gaze;
A rosy smile, all sweet and fair; a smile breaks forth on his face.
Mary holds his little hands in hers; Slumber sweet, Redeemer of All!
Slumber sweet, Thou heavenly Child.

VII Fulfillment

The earth is still, the stars brightly gleaming,
their light shine's bright; from far heaven streaming.
With mystery, the palm trees are sighing, the earth keeps watch.
The whole earth is waiting.
Though withered now, the flowers are lying,
their fragrance now the chill air defying.
Rejoice, Rejoice O world! Hallelujah!

SEQUENCE HYMN (*stand as able*)

1982 Hymnal #109 v1-4

The First Nowell

THE GOSPEL LESSON (*remain standing*)

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

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

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

SERMON

The Rev. Lisa Erdeljon

A brief silence is observed following the sermon.

LEM Let us stand and affirm our faith by saying together the words of the Nicene Creed.

*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.*

(remain standing or kneel as able)

Leader 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. *Silence*

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Leader 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*

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

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

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Leader 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*

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Leader 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. *Silence*

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

Leader We 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. *Silence*

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People ***Hear our prayer.***

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(seated)*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Johannes Brahms

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Lo, how a rose e'er blooming)

DOXOLOGY *(stand as able)*

***Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night;
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

The Great Thanksgiving

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

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 him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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

Dimmock, WLP #850

Ho-ly ho-ly ho-ly Lord,

9 God of pow-er and might. hea-ven and earth are

15 full of your glo-ry. Ho - san na in the high-est. —

22 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

27 Ho - san - na, Ho - san na, Ho - san - na

33 in — the high - est, the high - est! —

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*together*)

BCP 364

*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 (*Silence is kept*)

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Cathy Mockelbust

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

St. John's Handbell Choir

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*kneel or stand as able*)

BCP 365

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1982 Hymnal #107

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)

J.S. Bach

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

LEMs

9 a.m. Linda Serwatka, Elizabeth Zimmerman

11 a.m. Jim Klotz, Brian McMahon

Ushers

9 a.m. TBA

11 a.m. TBA

Altar Guild

9 a.m. Susan Edmonson, Linda McMahon

11 a.m. Nancy Adams, Margaret McFarland

Acolyte Master

9 a.m. Wendy Cumming

11 a.m. Linda McMahon

Music Director Deborah Carr

Organist Alan Strong

Special Music St. John's Choir, St. John's Handbell Choir

Coffee Hour Mary Beth & Mike Wusk

Staff

Rector Rev. Lisa Erdeljon

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If you would like to make an offering, you may do so online at bit.ly/stjhgive or by scanning the QR code. In the “Fund” drop down menu, please select the fund to which you would like to donate.



ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

2025 — Darden Barrett, Sr. Warden; Ron Kindley; Brad Norris

2026 — Scott Curtis; Ellen Griffith; Bettyrene Pope, Jr. Warden

2027 — Bob Harper; Andrew Mackey; Anne Rutherford

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

The Rt. Rev. Susan Bunton Haynes, Diocesan Bishop