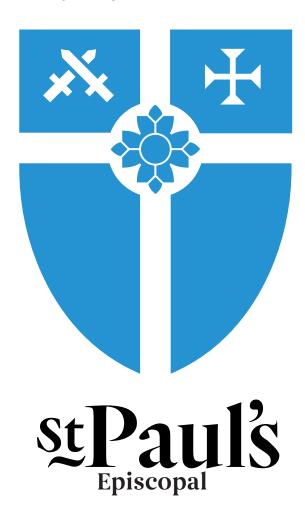
# The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 4, 2026, at 10:00 am



Holy Eucharist Rite II



All stand and sing HYMN 124

Puer nobis



## The Word of God

Celebrant

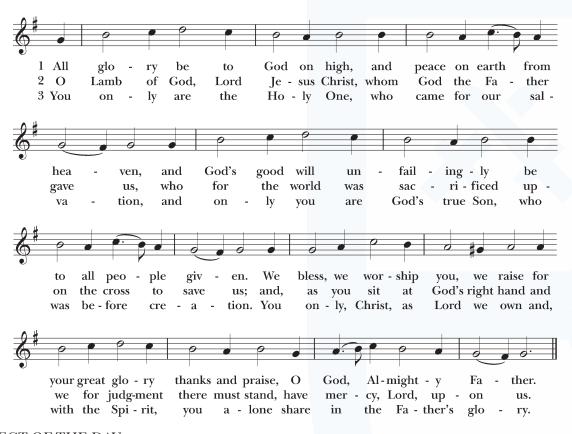
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

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

Celebrant

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.CelebrantLet 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.** 

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and

those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

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

says the LORD.



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O / LORD of hosts! \*
  My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
  my heart and my flesh rejoice in the / living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may / lay her young; \* by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King / and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell / in your house! \* they will always be / praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength / is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the / pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a / place of springs, \* for the early rains have covered it with / pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from / height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal him / self in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, / hear my prayer; \* hearken, O / God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our de/ fender, O God; \* and look upon the face of / your Anointed.

### THE SECOND LESSON | Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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



#### THE HOLY GOSPEL | Matthew 2:1-12

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In 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.

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Nicholas M. VanHorn

All stand.

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.

The People stand or kneel.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you and hear the prayers we offer to you.

Have mercy on the Church, that it may radiate your love to all the world. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on the leaders of the nations, that they may serve your people with the humility and justice you have shown us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on this community of Winston-Salem, that we may reflect your care as we share a common life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on those in any need, grief, or trouble, that they may know the comfort of your healing presence. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Have mercy on those who have died, that they may rest in your peace and glory in your resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

All kneel.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All 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.

Celebrant 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.

## All stand. THE PEACE

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

People And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's and giving generously so that our ministries and programs can continue to share the Gospel.

You can easily make a contribution by visiting this link: https://www.stpaulsws.org/ or scanning the QR code located in the at St.Paul's newsletter.

## The Holy Communion

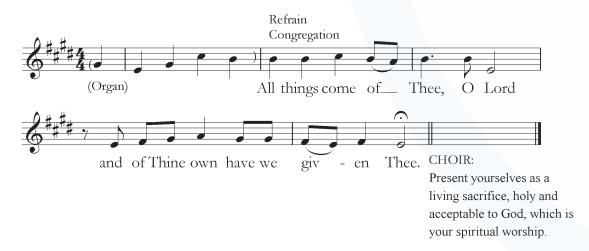
#### **ANTHEM**

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!
Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love, Roro; Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, While we sing you our Roro. John Joubert (1927-2019)
Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore, Amen.

All stand and sing
AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Smith



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

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:

#### Sung by all.

#### SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Smith



The People stand or kneel, then the Celebrant continues.

#### **Celebrant**

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.

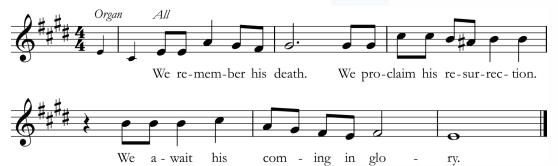
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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,

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Smith



#### Celebrant

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 all your 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.** 

All say together

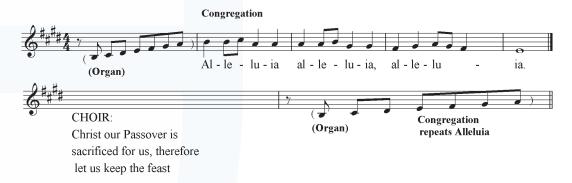
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the conscecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

#### THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Smith



Facing the People, the Celebrant says the following invitation

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.

#### THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

All baptized Christians of any denomination are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church. Please come forward at the guidance of the usher, or let an usher know if you need communion brought to your seat. Receive the bread (a wafer) with open and outstretched palms. Receive the wine either by drinking from the cup (guiding it to your lips) or by touching the wafer lightly to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please let us know by crossing your hands across your chest. Receiving only the bread or the wine is considered full participation in the Eucharist, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like to receive prayers for healing during communion, a member of the healing prayer ministry will be stationed at the Side Altar.

#### **ANTHEM**

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, and still knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the Babe was born for you, Christ the Babe was born for you.

Sung by all. HYMN 104

Andújar





#### THE SENDING OUT OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

The Minister and the People say the following

In the name of this congregation, we send you out 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.

All kneel.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the People, then all stand.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 119 Dix



VOLUNTARY | From heaven above to earth I come

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the high altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Elizabeth Hackney Greason
Murray Crossley Greason
Mary Elizabeth Hunnicutt Wilder
Edley Waco Wilder
Elizabeth Virginia Wilder Garten
Elizabeth Wilder Garten
and William Scott Garten

and the flowers on the side altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Richard Thomas Vernon, Jr. from Ann, Matthew, and Kathryn Vernon



#### JANUARY 4 | SUNDAY AT 5 PM

Feast of Lights • An Epiphany Pageant

The Feast of Lights is coming up on January 4th at 5pm.

St. Paul's has been celebrating Epiphany with the Feast of Lights Pageant since 1928.

We celebrate with scripture, storytelling, hymns and candlelight.



A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina 520 Summit Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101 www.stpaulswinstonsalem.org