

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the  
**HEAVENLY REST**

God's Love. For All.

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First Sunday after Christmas, Year A  
Holy Eucharist Rite I  
Sunday, December 28, 2025  
8:00 in the morning

*The liturgy begins in silence. Please stand as the procession enters.*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**THE GLORIA** *Glory be to God*

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*The people kneel or stand*

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit*

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Lector and People pray responsively by half verse*

## PSALM 147 *Domine, Dominus noster*

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*

**how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*

**he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

3 He heals the brokenhearted \*

**and binds up their wounds.**

4 He counts the number of the stars \*

**and calls them all by their names.**

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*

**there is no limit to his wisdom.**

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, \*

**but casts the wicked to the ground.**

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*

**make music to our God upon the harp.**

8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*

**and prepares rain for the earth;**

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*

**and green plants to serve mankind.**

10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*

**and for the young ravens when they cry.**

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*

**he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, \*

**in those who await his gracious favor.**

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*

**praise your God, O Zion;**

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
**he has blessed your children within you.**  
 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
**he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**  
 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
**and his word runs very swiftly.**  
 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
**he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**  
 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
**who can stand against his cold?**  
 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
**he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**  
 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**  
 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
**to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for*

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*Following the sermon, all stand and say*

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon*

Beloved in Christ, as we hear again the message of the Angels, let us rejoice God's heart by praying for the needs of the whole world.

*All kneel or stand.*

*Intercessor*

I ask your prayers for peace and goodwill over all the earth, especially in this country and this community.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the mission and unity of the Church for which Christ died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor and the helpless; and for the hungry and the oppressed.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the sick and those who mourn; for the lonely and the unloved; and for the aged and the little children.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds this or another concluding Collect.*

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 stand for*

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*At Heavenly Rest, we believe that we are called to respond to God's grace and generosity by giving of our time, talent, and treasure. The work of this church community is made possible by the financial contributions of those who worship here and participate in the life of this place. There are several ways to make a financial gift to Heavenly Rest: you may place cash or a check in the alms basin as it goes by; use the "Give" tab in the ChurchCenter App; or visit our website by using the QR code.*

Scan for online giving.  
Thank you for your generosity!



### OFFERTORY

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer II*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*Here a Proper Preface is said.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

## THE SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People stand or kneel as they are able.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread*

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM

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

*The following prayer may be said.*

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*The Celebrant Proceeds*

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 OF COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not baptized, you may come forward to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. If you are interested in being baptized, please speak to one of the clergy after the service.*

*Communion will be distributed at two stations: at the altar rail and in front of the pulpit. If you do not wish to receive wine, please cross your arms over your chest when the chalice comes by. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you wait to receive Communion.*

*After the ministration of Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*The Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors may be said.*

**In the name of this congregation, 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 and one cup.**

*The Celebrant blesses the People*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

## **POSTLUDE**



## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

*Celebrant* - David F. Romanik, *Rector*

*Preacher* - The Rev. Dr. Russell Dickerson, *Deacon*

*Assisting* - The Rev. Joe Biles, *Deacon and Pastoral Assistant*

*Guest Organist* - Arlene Small

*Lay Ministers* - Bill Young, Tom Choate

*Sound* - Dustin Rainwater

*Altar Guild* - Connie Collier, Norene Mansell, Jennifer Nichols, Mary Reyes, Lynette Tatum

*Greeters & Ushers* - Jay Moore, Dustin Rainwater



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### CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend David F. Romanik, <i>Rector</i>	Carol Ann Weston, <i>Director of Children &amp; Family Ministries</i>
The Reverend Ashley Powers, <i>Associate Rector</i>	Thomas Pavlechko, <i>Organist and Director of Music</i>
The Reverend Amanda Watson, <i>Assistant Rector for Community Life</i>	Elizabeth Knauer, <i>Music Assistant, Choristers</i>
The Reverend Karen Boyd, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	Laura Dickson, <i>Music Assistant, Children's Choir</i>
The Reverend Dr. Doug Thomas, <i>Priest in Residence</i>	Jen Rogers, <i>Director of Communications and Stewardship</i>
The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, <i>Deacon</i>	Lydia Hurt, <i>Parish Manager</i>
The Reverend Joe Biles, <i>Deacon and Pastoral Assistant</i>	Brenda Fisher, <i>Parish Accountant</i>
Bikole Mulanda, <i>Swahili Minister</i>	Robert Becerra, <i>Sexton</i>
Luke Teten, <i>Verger</i>	Dorothy Guerra, <i>Housekeeper</i>
	Anne Jones, <i>Nursery Manager</i>

### VESTRY AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Kate Haney, *Senior Warden*; Harry Hurt, *Junior Warden*; Sharon Lawler, *Secretary*; David Christianson, Michael Christie, Dru Hall, Diane Stearns, Kimberly Brumley, Jay Hardaway, Norene Mansell, John Nichols, Mary Reyes, Elizabeth Niblo Wallace, *Chancellor*; and Sam Cutbirth, *Treasurer*