

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the
HEAVENLY REST

God's Love. For All.

First Sunday after Christmas, Year A

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:30 in the morning

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Noël de Saintonge
Orientis Paribus (The Friendly Beasts)

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)
J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1958)

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Angels from the realms of glory*

Hymn 93
Tune: *Regent Square*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels we have heard on high,*

Hymn 96, verses 1, 3
Tune: *Gloria*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

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.

SEQUENCE HYMN *What child is this, who, laid to rest*

Hymn 115

Tune: *Greensleeves*

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, *Deacon*

Following the sermon, all stand for

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 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 also with you.

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 ANTHEM *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Une Jeune Pucelle)*

Mark Lochstampfor

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

Hymn 107, stanzas 1-2
Tune: *In dulci jubilo*

All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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.

Here a Proper Preface is said

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:

THE SANCTUS *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

S 125



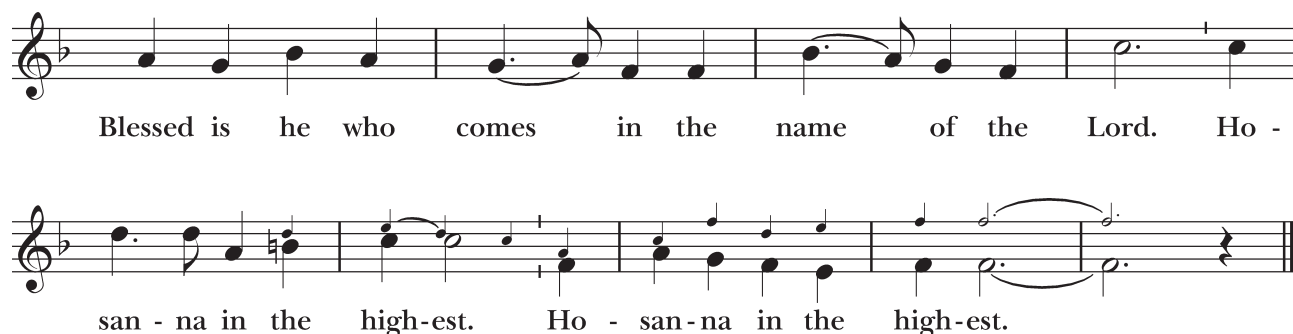
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



The People stand or kneel as they are able

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.

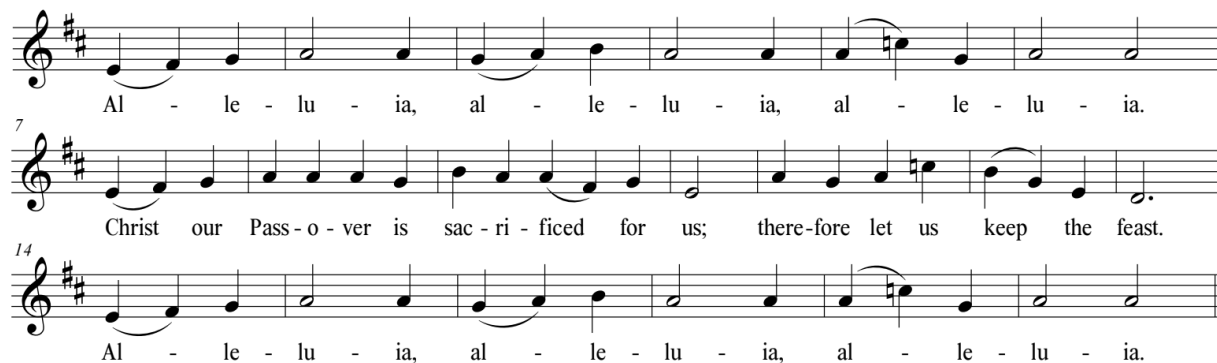
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with 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.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Of the Father's love begotten

Love came down at Christmas

Hymn 82

Tune: *Divinum mysterium*

Hymn 84

Tune: *Gartan*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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

All stand and sing

HYMN IN PROCESSION *Go tell it on the mountain*

Hymn 99

Tune: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

Aaron Shows

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

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

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

Assisting - The Rev. Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

Guest Organist - Arlene Small

Verger - Luke Teten

Acolytes - Violet Gensic, Lydia Gensic, Shepherd Gensic, Norah Goolsby, Davis Goolsby

Lay Ministers - Judy Deaton, Brandon Martin, Debbie Sherman

Sound - Nick Kloster

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

Greeters & Ushers - Lee Hampton, Nick Kloster, Blake Holle, Courtney Messer

Streaming - Bill Young, Clarence Hart



602 Meander Street Phone: (325) 677-2091

Abilene, Texas 79602 Email: info@heavenlyrestabilene.org

Website: heavenlyrestabilene.org Social media: [@heavenlyrestabilene](https://www.facebook.com/heavenlyrestabilene)

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend David F. Romanik, *Rector*

The Reverend Ashley Powers, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

The Reverend Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

The Reverend Dr. Doug Thomas, *Priest in Residence*

The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, *Deacon*

The Reverend Joe Biles, *Deacon and Pastoral Assistant*

Bikole Mulanda, *Swahili Minister*

Luke Teten, *Verger*

Carol Ann Weston, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Thomas Pavlechko, *Organist and Director of Music*

Elizabeth Knauer, *Music Assistant, Choristers*

Laura Dickson, *Music Assistant, Children's Choir*

Jen Rogers, *Director of Communications and Stewardship*

Lydia Hurt, *Parish Manager*

Brenda Fisher, *Parish Accountant*

Robert Becerra, *Sexton*

Dorothy Guerra, *Housekeeper*

Anne Jones, *Nursery Manager*

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*