



## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

### Holy Eucharist, Rite II

December 28, 2025, 10AM

*We are glad that you are here to worship with us today.  
Please take the time before the service for silent prayer and meditation.  
Let us know more about you by signing the guest book near the front door.  
We welcome you to be part of our programs & community life.*



### ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Building a joyful community of faith in Christ  
through worship, learning, praise and service*

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Instagram: [@allsaints.millington](https://www.instagram.com/allsaints.millington)

Parish E-Letter *Saints' Alive!* Sign up on our website.

## **Our Ministers Today**

**Ushers:** Ted Kestler, Tom Stracka

**Acolyte:** Wendy Clarkson

**Lector:** Sean Ragiel

**Lay Eucharistic Minister:** Waring Webb

**Altar Guild:** Suzanne Kosempel, Betty Mather, Lisa Webb

**Coffee Hour Host:** Christmas Goodies Sharing

# THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

*Divinum Mysterium*

Craig Phillips

**Processional Hymn 78, O little town of Bethlehem**

FOREST GREEN

Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Joy to the world the Lord has come.

*People* **Let earth receive her King**

*Presider* Let every heart prepare him room

*People* **And heaven and nature sing**

The Collect for Purity

**Gloria, Hymn 96, Angels we have heard on high**

GLORIA



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## 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.**

## The Lessons

**First Lesson:** A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

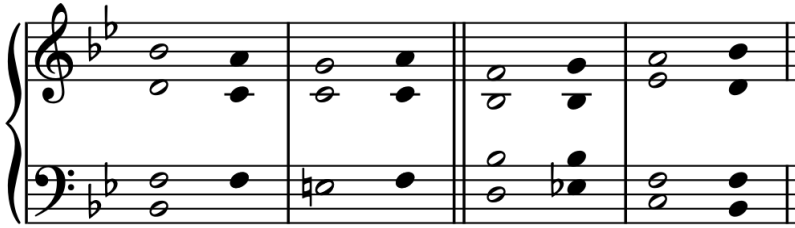
**Thanks be to God**

Psalm 147:13-21

*Sung by all.*

Thomas Pavlechko

*Change notes and the words in bold.*



- 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**.

*Sung to the second half of the chant:*

- 21 He has not done so to any other **nation**; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
**Hallelujah!**

## The Second Lesson:

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

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

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 82, *Of the Father's love begotten***

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

## The Gospel

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

JOHN 1:1-18

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 Rev. Victoria Geer McGrath

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

The Prayers of the People

*LEM* Father, in this holy season your Son was born among us, and Christians all over the world sing for joy; renew your Church and open our hearts that Christ may find in us a dwelling place prepared for himself.

In this holy season, the angels sang of "Peace on earth and good will among all people." We pray for the leaders of this country and all in authority, that they may work for peace and promote the well-being of all.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

In this holy season, the shepherds found the Christ Child lying in a manger, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Joseph; bless our homes and families, and all those we love.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

The darkness of this season is scattered with the light of Christ's presence; bring comfort to all who suffer, who grieve, or who are alone, especially those we name \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

In the Word made flesh, you have joined heaven and earth; keep in safety all those who have died, those for whom altar flowers and music memorials have been given, and those we name \_\_\_\_\_; bring us all to the joys of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

*Presider* O Father of mercy, whose Son Jesus took upon himself our nature, that he might bear our sorrows, be the companion of our journeys, and the forgiveness of our sins; pour out on us your Holy Spirit, that as Christ was born in our likeness, even so may we grow into his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

BCP, p. 360

The Peace

*Welcome, Announcements*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

*The Cherry Tree Carol*

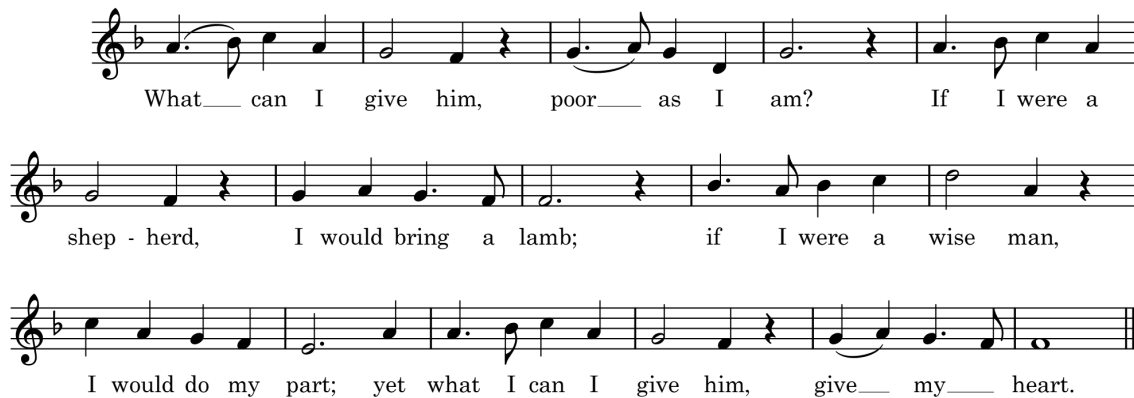
Robert J. Powell



Please feel free to make your offering in thanksgiving to God using the electronic giving at [www.allsaintsmillington.org/giving](http://www.allsaintsmillington.org/giving)

**Presentation Hymn 112, *In the bleak midwinter*, verse 4**

CRAMHAM

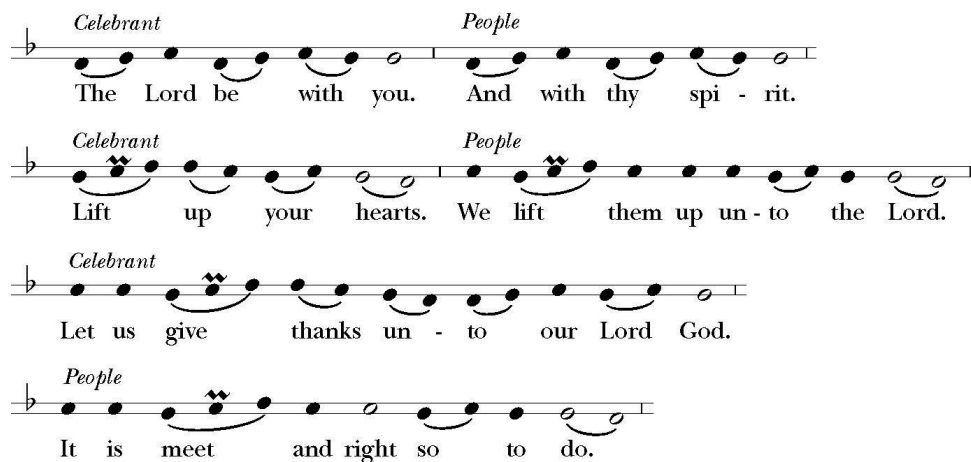


What \_\_\_ can I give him, poor \_\_\_ as I am? If I were a  
shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ heart.

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B**

BCP, p. 367

**Sursum Corda S-120**



*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And with thy spi - rit.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up un - to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.  
*People* It is meet and right so to do.

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and might.



Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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



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

## The Great Amen



A - men. A - men.

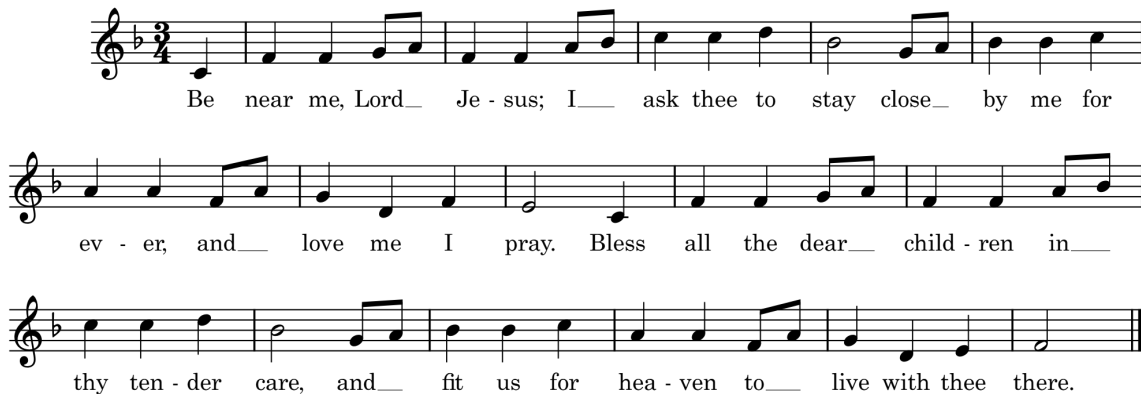
## The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.  
A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem



Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for  
ev - er, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear child - ren in  
thy ten - der care, and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion which will be offered as both bread and wine.*

*If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest at the altar rail.*

*If you need to receive Communion in your pew, please let an usher know.*

*If you are not receiving today, please come forward for a blessing.*

**Communion Hymn 105, God rest you merry, gentlemen** GOD REST YOU MERRY

Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365

**Closing Hymn 94, While shepherds watched their flocks** WINCHESTER OLD

The Christmas Blessing

The Dismissal

*The response is* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Carol of the Bells*

Christopher Anderson Reed

**Please join us after worship for coffee hour in the Parish House.**

This is a time for some relaxed conversation  
with one another over light snacks and a warm beverage.

## All Saints' Announcements

**Nativity Pageant** - Our inter-generational pageant will take place next Sunday, Jan 4 at 10am, with a rehearsal at 9am on Saturday Jan 3. Anyone can have a part: teens, kids, and adults! Sign up for a role as a reader, a character, a backstage person, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**Epiphany Party, January 4, 11:15 am - Parish Lunch** to celebrate the close of the Christmas season. Please bring a dish to share: pot of soup, finger sandwiches, cheese & crackers, fruit, or beverage; dessert will be a King's Cake, and there will be a piñata for children! Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to let us know you can come and what you will bring!

**Bible Study** starts up again on Wed. Jan. 7 at 10:15 am on Zoom. If you have been "cautiously curious" about Bible reading and would like to try it out, please know that you are invited. It's a good way to start the New Year! Questions? Speak to Mother Vicki.

**Year-End Giving & Pledge Fulfillments** - Please make sure the balance of your pledge for 2025 is complete this month. And if you are planning any additional year-end gifts, we need to receive those by December 31. Thank you.

*Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2026 will be available in the Narthex in January.*

**Star Words for 2025 and chalk for Epiphany House Blessings** will be available at both services on Sunday, January 11, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

*The Parish Office will be closed until January 1  
for the staff Christmas holiday.*

### *Clergy, Vestry & Staff*

**Rector:** The Rev. Victoria Geer McGrath

**Curate:** Sister Monica Clare, Deacon

**Wardens:** Wendy Clarkson & Janet Gibbs

**Vestry:** Stewart Cunningham, Matt Dalmedo,  
Helen Mederos, Betsy Wallace, Waring Webb

**Clerk:** Janet Gibbs

**Treasurer:** Bob Jackson

**Music Director:** Alison Siener Brown

**Administrator:** Susie Harris