



## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 28, 2025

*Welcome to this morning's worship! Thank you for joining us today. If you are new to our service, please take a moment to fill out our Welcome card so we can get to know you. Please use this bulletin, the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and the blue Hymnal to follow along in worship. Nursery care is available down the stairs at the back of the church, and we offer activity bags at the back of the church to keep little hearts and hands engaged.*

### Prelude

**Opening Hymn** *(Please stand as you are able.)*

*Angels, from the realms of glory*

Hymnal 93

### The Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

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

*People* ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* 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 Word of God**

### **The Hebrew Bible Reading**

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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

### **The Psalm** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

Psalm 147:13–21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*

praise your God, O Zion;

***For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \****

***he has blessed your children within you.***

He has established peace on your borders; \*

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

***He sends out his command to the earth, \****

***and his word runs very swiftly.***

He gives snow like wool; \*

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

***He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \****

***who can stand against his cold?***

He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

*He declares his word to Jacob, \**  
*his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*

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

## **The Epistle**

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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

## **Gradual Hymn** (*standing, sung by all*)

*Of the Father's love begotten (v. 1)*

Hymnal 82

## **The Holy Gospel**

John 1:1–18

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

*People*      *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.

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Gradual Hymn**

*Of the Father's love begotten (v. 4)*

Hymnal 82

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

The Rev. Dr. Leon Spencer

**The Nicene Creed** (*standing*)

BCP p. 358

**The Prayers of the People** \* (*standing or kneeling*)

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you—that we might be the Church and the people who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; draw our nation, our president, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our prayer.***

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As your Son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, for those who are sick, for those who are serving in our armed forces, and for those who have died.

*Celebrant:* O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this season, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. *Amen.*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

BCP p. 360

## **The Peace**

## **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory Hymn** (*sung by all*)

*Good Christian friends, rejoice*

Hymnal 107

### **At the Presentation**

*The Doxology*

Hymnal 380, v. 3

### **The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B**

BCP p. 367

*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 God thanks and praise.*

## **Sanctus**

Hymnal S-130

## **The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 364

## The Breaking of the Bread

*We are offering Communion in both kinds. If you do not want to receive Communion but would like to come forward for a blessing, come to either side of the altar rail and place your arms across your chest in the form of an "X" or cross.*

## Communion Music

### Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 365

### The Blessing

### Closing Hymn

*God rest you merry, gentlemen*

Hymnal 105

### The Dismissal

BCP p. 366

*Deacon* Let us go forth together sharing the love of Christ.

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

### Postlude

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***We welcome the Rev. Dr. Leon Spencer as preacher and celebrant today.***

*\* Today's Prayers of the People are from Prayers of the People for all Christmastide, by Rick Morley.*

***Acolytes:*** Amy Green, Levi Haynes. ***Readers:*** Doug Sanecki, Hannah Schlotterer. ***Chalicians:*** Alan Atwell, Linda Cummer. ***Verger:*** Debbie Dowd. ***Ushers:*** Tim Fleming, Mark Kaley, Charles Kelshaw, Linda Van Ormer, Mike Van Ormer. ***Greeter & Newcomer Host:*** Jonathan Stephens. ***Altar Guild Members:*** Pat Baker, Beth Berger, Nancy Bishop, Susan Brannan, Mary V. Compton, Carolyn Hackett, Anne Jones, Nancy Kimbrough, Barbara Lawless, Sandy O'Briant, Laurinda Stokes, Linda Van Ormer, Gail Walters. ***Livestream Team:*** Tim Fleming, Sandy Shelton.

***The flowers at the altar are provided by the generous donors named in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be picked up at the end of today's service.***

*Music used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-717747.*

## We Pray For

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Canada

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Diocese of Botswana

**Those on our parish prayer list:** Norma Bullock, Traci and Erik, Jeff Cummer, Betty Atwell, Mack Baker, Lauren, Martha and Jim Kaley, Nancy O'Donnell, Tina Sink Gangi, Heather, Victoria, Pauline Tatum, Jim Tatum, Pia, Katelyn Flowers, Jeannie Phillips, James,

Madeline Colavito, Hilary Towle, Sarah Sellers, Sue Keith, Myra Stephens, Derek, E. MacKenzie, Carolyn Ritchie, Glenna Ohaver, Susan Seaton, Karl Towle, Heidi Dohmeier, Donnie Robertson, Barbara Van Cleve, Nancy Antrim, Bert and Bev, Mary Lou Strohl, Frank Tatem, Faye Thompson, Ethan Shoffner, Paul, Karen, Sabrina, John Bald, Keats, Alicia, Gloria, Jo, Julie Dameron, Lynn Hayworth, Gayle Aiken, Denise, Vicky, Barbara Cole, Patrick Miller, Terese Southern, Jordan, Laura Shinn, Anne Collins, Bill Hill, Carl and Angie Smith, James R. Smith, Lauren Vasquez and family, Clare, Maggie, Ken Sisk, Ken

**Seminarian:** Ryan Waide

**Special concerns:** The people of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, and Sudan; all those impacted by recent storms

**Those serving in our military:** Tom Stauffer, Paul Zeigler, Stephen Johnson, Benjamin Phillips, Kenneth Gearhart, Alex Reyes, Michael McNeil, Jordan Payne, Catharyn Nosek

**Those expecting:** Martin and Samantha Kappauf, due January 2026; Sean and Olivia Toso, due March 2026

**Birthdays:** Mack Baker, Jorge Chaires, Reese Ermentrout, Annette Garvey, Charlyne Hanna, Sarah Lindsay, Charlotte Lloyd, Stephen Martin, Carol Phillips, Brianna Richardson, Katie Wangelin

### Announcements

#### ***Burgundy Bag Donations—Please Hold Until January 4***

*The One Step Further food pantry is closed during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Please continue to gather food donations so you may resume bringing them to church on January 4.*

#### ***Parish Office Schedule***

*The office is closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays and will resume normal hours Monday, January 5. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the Rev. Pam Haynes at 336-309-6265 or [deacon@standrewsgso.org](mailto:deacon@standrewsgso.org). For urgent building-related concerns, contact Cindy Shane at [facilities@standrewsgso.org](mailto:facilities@standrewsgso.org), 336-403-1600 (daytime), or 336-992-9878 (evenings).*

#### ***Schedule for Nursery and Children's Ministry through January 4***

*Children are always welcome to join us for worship, and activity bags are available at the back of the church to keep little hearts and hands engaged. Nursery care is offered today and next Sunday. Children's Ministry will pause on these Sundays, resuming January 11 with Children's Chapel.*

#### ***Year-End is Here!***

*We are grateful for your continued gifts that sustain the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. If you have questions about your giving this year, setting up or changing a recurring draft, or making gifts of*

stock or other funds, please email Ray Marsh at [bookkeeper@standrewsgso.org](mailto:bookkeeper@standrewsgso.org) or call him at 336-275-1651, ext. 3. Ray is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To make new or pledged gift online, visit [abundant.co/standrewsepiscopalch/give](http://abundant.co/standrewsepiscopalch/give) or scan the QR code at right. Checks may be mailed to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bookkeeper, 2105 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. To make a pledge for 2026, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/WalkInLove2026> or request a pledge packet from Ray.



**Save the Dates: Our Annual Meeting is February 1, 2026—Leader Reports are Due January 12**  
Our Annual All-Parish Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Leaders are asked to submit reports (and photos) to Susan Frye at [parish@standrewsgso.org](mailto:parish@standrewsgso.org) by January 12, 2026. Early reports are welcomed.

### **Worship, Service, & Fellowship in 2026—Walking in Love in the Season of Light**

#### **Our Epiphany Celebration is January 11—With Star Words & Chalking the Doors**

Join us for 10 a.m. worship on January 11, when we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This year we will again introduce Star Words in this service, distributing star-shaped cards, each with a word on one side. As we consider together what it means to Look for the Light, reflecting on these words can serve as a simple spiritual practice, inviting you to set your intention for the new year. We will share more information about Star Words and Chalking the Doors for Epiphany in the new year.

#### **Let's Welcome the Season of Light with Children's Chapel on January 11**

Our children are invited to celebrate the start of Epiphany with Children's Chapel during 10 a.m. worship on January 11. We'll have a story and special offering for our first gathering in 2026!

#### **EYC: Shining a Light in Dark Times & Our Great Epiphany (Potluck) Feast—January 11**

All middle and high schoolers are invited to start the new year together on Epiphany Sunday, January 11, 5:00–6:30 p.m., when we will share a potluck meal. Details to come in 2026!

#### **Worship and Make a Difference Day of Service—Sunday, January 18**

Make a Difference Day is an extension of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. It is a time for giving back to your community. Join us in the Parish Hall after our worship on January 18 for an all-parish Make a Difference Day service project, as we fill and decorate "Comfort Bags" to be distributed later to members of Greensboro's houseless community.

#### **Save the Date for a Women's Retreat—January 31**

We are planning a special morning of reflection, conversation, and intention setting for the new year. Look for more details about our Women's (Mini) Retreat in the coming weeks, and save Saturday, January 31 (10 a.m.–1 p.m.), on your calendar.

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church ✱ The Rev. Ginny Bain Inman, Rector**

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