

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

[www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org)



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

210 Church Street, Greenville, Alabama 36037

334.382.8914

### Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen, *Rector*

Dr. Elizabeth French, *Organist*

Dent Neilson, *Verger*

Sharon Carson, *Parish Administrator*

Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

### VESTRY

Carey Stallworth, *Senior Warden*,

Jean Hancock ('28), *Clerk*, Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*

Mary Dearing ('26), Amy Martin ('26), Mints McGowin ('27),

Cleve Poole ('26), Nikki McFerrin ('28), Laura Watts ('27)

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

BCP – *The Book of Common Prayer*, H – *The Hymnal 1982*

S – *Service Music in The Hymnal*, A – *Alleluia III Songbook*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**Prelude**

Dr. Elizabeth French

**Processional Hymn**

*Angels from the realms of glory*

H 93, v 1-3

**The Opening Sentences**

BCP 355

**Gloria**

S 280

**The 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.*

**First Reading – 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 consolation 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 oil, and over the young of the flocks 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 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,” says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 84**

BCP 707

*Officiant and People*

<sup>1</sup> How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of Host! \*

my soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

<sup>2</sup> The sparrow has found 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.  
<sup>3</sup> Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
 they will be praising you.  
<sup>4</sup> Happy are people whose strength is in you! \*  
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrim' way.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.  
<sup>6</sup> They will climb from height to height, \*  
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.  
<sup>7</sup> Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
 hearken, O God of Jacob.  
<sup>8</sup> Behold our defender, O God; \*  
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.  
<sup>9</sup> For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
 he will give grace and glory.  
<sup>11</sup> No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
 from those who walk with integrity.  
<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, \*  
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

## Second- 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## Sequence Hymn

*What Child is this*

H 115

## Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

**Celebrant** 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 Judeah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" The Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star 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 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 country by another road.

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

## **The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

*All say together*

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 Leader and People pray responsively.*

In Peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*For those who minister to the ick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For (Bishop Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Bishop Russell, our Bishop(s); and for) all bishops and other ministers;

*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The people may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The people may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

***Silence***

*The people may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and the People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
Known and unknown,  
Things done and left undone;  
And so, uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## **Confession of Sin**

*All say together*

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.

## **Absolution**

BCP 360

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*

## **The Peace**

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

*People And also with you.*

## The Announcements

### The Holy Communion

#### Offertory Sentence

*The Priest says* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to Almighty God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at [www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org))*

#### Offertory Anthem

*Dr. Elizabeth French*

#### Doxology

*H 380 v 3*

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

**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 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:

#### Sanctus

S 128

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever. *AMEN.*

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Celebrant:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*Celebrant and People*

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 consecrated Bread.

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

### **Celebrant**

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 Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words



The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation [*Amen.*]

## **The Ministration of Communion**

### **Communion Hymns**

Choir and Congregation

*Humbly I adore Thee*

A 314

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

A 324

### **Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor**

**Celebrant** In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.*

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

### **Blessing**

Celebrant blesses the congregation saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Dismissal**

**Celebrant** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

H 117, v 1-3

### **Postlude**

Dr. Elizabeth French