

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 28th, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II
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, *Vergers*
Sharon Carson, *Parish Administrator*
Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

VESTRY

Tammi Edwards ('25), Cleve Poole ('26) *Senior Warden*,
Laura Watts ('27), *Clerk*, Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*
Mary Dearing ('26), Ann Garrett ('25),
Amy Martin ('26), Mints McGowin ('27), Carey Stallworth ('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

The Opening Hymn

How bright appears the morning star

H 497

The Opening Sentences

BCP 355

Song of Praise (*Benedictus es, Domine*)

S 236

The Collect

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 unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

First 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 garment 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.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalms 147

BCP 804

Officiant and People

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 exile of Israel.

³ He heals the broken-hearted *

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 might in power; *

there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

¹⁰He Provides food for flocks and herds *
and for young ravens when they cry.

¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

¹²But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

¹³Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his words runs very swiftly.

¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.

¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statues and his judgements to Israel.

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

Second Reading: 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 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. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

H 268

Gospel John 1:1-18

Celebrant 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. Amen.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

Ethan Rowell

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 Prayers of the People

Form VI

BCP 392

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)

Offertory Meditation

Dr. Elizabeth French

Doxology

H 380, v 3

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creature here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 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:

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel.

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.*

Sanctus

S 130

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

I Have Decided to follow Jesus

A 73

Here I am to Worship

A 60

Lord of the Dance

A 111

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.*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Dismissal

BCP 365

Closing Hymn

Hail to the Lord's anointed

H 616, v 1-3

Postlude

Dr. Elizabeth French