

**THE SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

JANUARY 4, 2026 • 10:30 A.M.



**Church of the Good Shepherd
Rocky Mount, NC**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

VOLUNTARY
Held

Prelude on 'Divinum mysterium'

Wilbur

HYMN 102

"Once in royal David's city"

Irby

BIDDING PRAYER

The Book of Occasional Services, page 32

Presider Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

People **Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6

The prophet Isaiah said unto the people, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

HYMN 65 (vs. 1)

"Prepare the way, O Zion"

Bereden väg för Herran

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

SECOND READING: Luke 1:26-27, 30-32; Matthew 1:20-21

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

HYMN 265 (vs. 1 & 2)

"The angel Gabriel"

Gabriel's Message

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!**
- 2 "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!**

THIRD READING: Luke 1:39-42

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

HYMN 265 (vs. 3)

"The angel Gabriel"

Gabriel's Message

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!**

FOURTH READING: Luke 1:57-64, 67-68, 76-79

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.⁶⁰ But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.⁶³ He asked for a

writing tablet (because he was unable to speak) and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁷Then Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: ⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

HYMN 76 (vs. 1) "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Winchester New

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN 79 (vs. 1 & 2) "O little town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

**1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be

field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

- 5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Reader Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Reader Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People Amen.

HYMN 115 (vs. 1 & 3) "What child is this" *Greensleeves*

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE PEACE 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY 361

Anthem

Star Carol

Richard Shephard

Above us in Bethlehem shining so bright. A star in the eastern sky lights up the night. More splendid than gold is the message it brings; Its glory and majesty heralds a king. Lamplight, candlelight, light from afar. Yet none is as lovely as light from the star. O night calm and peaceful, O night above all; O star that is resting above yonder stall. Give hope to your people and lighten our way; Shine down upon us and turn night into day. Lamplight, candlelight, light from afar. Yet none is as lovely as light from the star. O lead us to Bethlehem, bright morning star, and then to the manger, from lands near and far; With shepherds and angels, we'll worship and sing, and there give our hearts to the King of all Kings. Lamplight, candlelight, light from afar. Yet none is as lovely as light from the star.

HYMN 112 (vs. 4)

"In the bleak midwinter"

Cranham

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, 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 A)

361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider 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:

HYMNAL S-129

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider 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:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider 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.

People **AMEN.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider 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

364

After the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, a moment of silence is observed.

Hymn 324 (vs. 2)

Picardy

Presider and People

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

364

Presider 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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

364

Please follow the directions of the usher to the communion rail. After receiving the bread, communicants may receive the wine either by sipping from the chalice or by intinction (i.e. carefully dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten free wafers are available. For a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the priest.

Anthem

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

David Hurd

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall harbor heaven, A stall become a shrine. This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by; The palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb, and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come. Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die; The sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men: God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again. But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high; The stars shall bend their

voices, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, in praises of the Child by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled. text: Richard Wilbur

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

366

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider and People

Almighty and everliving 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 for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 109

"The first Nowell the angel did say"

The First Nowell

DISMISSAL

366

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

Wilbur Held

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PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

Emily Dwight, Chris Dwight, and David Dwight

Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist

Jackson Bowen, Kathryn Hicks Bowen, and James Beck Bowen

Isaiah, Angels, Animals, Shepherds, Star, and Wise Men

James Barkley, Banner Bowen, MeMe Daughtridge, Voga Duffee,
Jack Dwight, Lilly Dwight, Henrietta Evans, Rowland Evans,

George Martin, Harvey Martin, Chydan Mullen, Jordan Mullen,
Wyatt Wagley, Charlie Walker

Readers

Will Daughtridge and Julianne Wilson

Thanks to all who joined the cast after the bulletins were printed.

SERVERS

Acolytes Sadie Meadows and Will Daughtridge;
Altar Guild Jeanne Shannon and Barbara Willis;
Audiovideo Engineer Ron Sowers; **Eucharistic Minister** Howard Weeks;
Greeters Kenneth and Deborah Burnette;
Musicians Julianne Wilson, soprano; Lawrence Goering, organist;
Presider The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter;
Vestry Counters Emily Dwight and Barbara Hicks

VESTRY

Class of 2026
Brenning Daughtridge
Emily Dwight
Britt Myers

Class of 2027
Kenneth Burnette
Barbara Hicks
Jack Miller
John Tobias

Class of 2028
Corey Folta
Heather Seale

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For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message
on Becky's mobile phone: 570-259-0671

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**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL
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Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language – livestreamed at *goodshepherdlive.org*)

Wednesday Service

12:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)