

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church



THE NATIVITY

DECEMBER 28, 2025

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8:00 AM

THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN, *CELEBRANT*

THE REVEREND DR. EMILIO ROSOLEN, *PREACHER*

*Welcome to Saint Gregory's! We invite you to join us in active participation in the worship of God.
This leaflet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer.*

The service of worship begins with the music of the organ.

Through its power and brilliance, may you feel God's majesty and glory—in its quietness, God's peace.

Please silence all cell phones.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

All stand as the bells peal and the procession enters.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

CELEBRANT Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. AMEN.***

The Celebrant continues

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 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Said by All.*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. **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.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

[61:10-62:3]

Michelle, Santorelli, Lector.

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 *Recited by all responsively by whole verse.*

[147:13-21]

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

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

[3:23-25; 4:4-7]

Gena Vallee, Lector.

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.***

The People stand for

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

[1:1-18]

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.

READER The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

The People are seated.

THE SERMON *THE REVEREND DR. EMILIO ROSOLEN, CLERGY ASSOCIATE*

Silence is kept.

The People stand for

THE NICENE CREED

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 *The Leader and People pray together, the People answering* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Walter Jones, Leader.

The Leader says,

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this most holy season of our Lord's birth, that we may find peace, joy and contentment in this holy season, let us pray for our ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying: Lord hear our prayer.

For the Church, The Body of Christ, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and may care for the needs of God's people in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Donald, our President; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world. We pray especially for peace in Gaza and Israel and for the people of Ukraine, that there may be peace in our troubled world and that the darkness of war and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized; those who are imprisoned in body or soul; and all those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Have compassion on all who suffer in body, mind and spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who labor this season on behalf of others: doctors and nurses, police officers and first responders, men and women serving in the armed forces, bus drivers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this day with those they love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours at this holy season that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as He loves us, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith; that we, like them, may remain faithful to the end and live forever in the light of your eternal glory, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds the concluding collect.

Mighty God, mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Deacon or Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

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.**

The Celebrant says,

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 Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord with a nod or a bow.

All are seated as a formal welcome is made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



An offering will be collected at this time.

To make an electronic offering via your phone, simply scan this QR Code with your camera application, and follow the prompts, or text SGEgive to: 833-672-4095.

All stand as the Gifts are presented.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Celebrant faces them and says

PEOPLE The Lord be with you.

CELEBRANT ***And also with you.***

PEOPLE Lift up your hearts.

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

PEOPLE Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE ***It is right to give our 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:

THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT

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.

The People may stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Gregory, all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

CELEBRANT Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

PEOPLE **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. In Jesus' name, all are welcome! At the time of Holy Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. Both the Host (the blessed wafer) and the Chalice (wine) will be offered. If you prefer to receive only the Host, it is full communion. We also provide gluten-free Hosts. Please indicate your preference for a gluten-free Host to the Eucharistic Minister at the altar. Should you not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are still invited to come to the altar for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference for a blessing.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, all stand as the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

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.**

THE BLESSING

In this season where we celebrate the incarnation—God taking flesh to live among us that we may live with God—may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

THE DISMISSAL

DEACON Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

We welcome you to this service of worship! It is our fervent prayer that you will find God's love and peace in this holy place. We invite you to explore life at St. Gregory's by speaking with one of the clergy. Please scan the QR code below and fill out the form provided to be sent information about all the opportunities and ministries offered at St. Gregory's!



The front cover features an image of an icon created by former parishioner Brooks Turner, entitled *The Holy Family*.

CLERGY AND STAFF

RECTOR *THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN*
SENIOR ASSOCIATE RECTOR *THE REVEREND DR. ROBYN M. NEVILLE*
PASTORAL COUNSELOR AND CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND ELIZABETH PANKEY-WARREN*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND JEAN BRUNO*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND DR. EMILIO ROSOLEN*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE EMERITUS *THE REVEREND DR. R. CRAIG BURLINGTON*
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER *TIMOTHY J. BRUMFIELD*
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH AND PASTORAL SUPPORT *GENA VALLEE*
YOUTH MINISTRIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR *ANITA SHERMAN*
SENIOR VERGER *JEFF MILLER*
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR *KRISTEN CHANEY*
COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA COORDINATOR *DAWN RAHICKI*
AUDIO/VISUAL COORDINATOR *LOUIS BIRRO*
FINANCIAL MANAGER *LEANDA ROBINSON*
OFFICE MANAGER *KAY HOLT*
FACILITIES MANAGER/SEXTON *STEVE DEMOREUILLE*

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist
9:45 AM Church School
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, or Choral Evensong

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM (Tuesday and Wednesday, online and in-person; Monday, Thursday and Friday, in-person.)
Holy Eucharist every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon

*Transforming
Hearts and
Community
through
Jesus' Love*



SAINT GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH *The Cultural and Sacred Hub of Arts and Service*

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