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# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## *The First Sunday after Christmas*

December 28, 2025

8:00 a.m.

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Welcome to St. Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



*This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership, and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.*

## In the Church Year: Christmas

For the church, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We celebrate this birth not because Jesus was simply a “good man” but because we believe Jesus was — and is — both the human son of Mary and the divine Son of God. That makes Christmas a time to reflect on a mystery that the church calls the doctrine of the Incarnation. This important theological term comes from the Latin word *carne*, which means “flesh,” and has to do with the divine taking on human flesh and coming among us in human form.

In one of his Christmas sermons Augustine, the fifth-century bishop of Hippo, described the mystery of the Incarnation this way: “Beloved, our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal creator of all things, today became our Savior by being born of a mother. Of his own will he was born for us today, in time, so that he could lead us to his Father’s eternity. God became human like us so that we might become God. The Lord of the angels became one of us today so that we could eat the bread of angels.”

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

Jennifer Cline – December 28

Joyce Newcomb – December 30

Rod Zimmerman – December 31

## Entering In

*The following thought by a spiritual author, religious, theologian or one of our clergy is intended to reflect something in today’s service. The Practice is intended to offer one practical way of living these reflections.*

Through the Incarnation, God in Jesus became flesh; God visibly moved in with the material world to help us overcome the illusion of separation... The Incarnation proclaims that matter and spirit have never been separate. Jesus came to tell us that these two seemingly different worlds are—and always have been—one. *Richard Rohr*

**Practice:** Take an object, any object (Julian of Norwich used a hazelnut). Sit with it for five or ten minutes and look for its oneness of spirit and matter. It may take a while, but don’t give up. Come back to it again and again. It will change the way you see your world.

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

### The Word of God

#### Prelude

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### The Opening Acclamation

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

*Assembly* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

#### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider* Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## The Lessons

### The Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

*Assembly*        **Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

## Psalm 147

*Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.*

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

**He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

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

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

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

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

**He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

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

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

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!

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Gospel

John 1:1-18

*Gospeler*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*Assembly*       **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

*Gospeler*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Assembly*       **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Rev. Adam Spencer

*A period of silence follows the sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**



**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Book of Common Prayer, Form I*

- Intercessor* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,  
saying "Lord, have mercy."
- Intercessor* For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of  
God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the  
Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in  
authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For this village of Glencoe, for every city and community, and for  
those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the  
sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For Sally Graver  
Sherry Schellenbach  
Aidan Thomson  
Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple  
Sam Weisbard, friend of Fred & Annette Johnston  
Lexi Valasek, mother of a Montessori student  
Charlotte Margolis, baby sister of a Montessori student  
James Green, sibling of a Montessori student  
Chuck Southwick & family, friend of Susan & Larry Whipple  
Cheryl, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman  
Griffin, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman  
Are there others?

*Silence*

Let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, Elisabeth and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*Assembly* **To thee, O Lord our God.**

## The Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Presider* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*All* **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

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

### The Collection

*Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church, or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.*



### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Assembly* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Presider* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we

might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*All* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please remain standing or kneel, as you are able.*

*Presider* All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*Assembly*

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

*All* **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

*A period of silence is kept.*

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*All* **We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful  
Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold  
and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather  
up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord  
whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore,  
gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

## The Invitation to Communion

*Presider*      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please line up at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel. Please assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. Gluten-free host available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*All*      **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Presider*      The peace of God, which passeth 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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

*Assembly*      **Amen.**



## **The Dismissal**

<i>Presider</i>	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
<i>Assembly</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

## **Postlude**





**The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**  
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

**Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church**

**Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Caryl Medsker	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Abigail Pribble	<i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>

**2025 Vestry**

Robert Fischer, *Warden*  
Fred Johnston  
Jamie Kim

Carrie Miller-Mygatt,  
*Warden*

Kara Superfine  
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*  
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

**Sunday Schedule**



8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

**Office Hours**

Tuesday -Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.