

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**December 28, 2025 – The First Sunday after Christmas**  
**10:00 am**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont**

Prelude: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* - Brenda Portman  
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

**Hymn 106 Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn**

*Yorkshire*

**1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn  
whereon the Savior of the world was born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.**

**2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice: "Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Savior's birth  
to you and all the nations on the earth:  
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
this day is born a Savior, Christ the Lord."**

**3. He spoke, and straightway the celestial choir  
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;  
the praises of redeeming love they sang,  
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang;  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
peace on the earth, and unto men good will.**

**4. In Bethlehem the happy shepherds sought  
to see the wonder God for us had wrought,  
and found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,  
her Son, the Savior, in a manger laid;  
amazed, the wondrous story they proclaim,  
the earliest heralds of the Savior's name.**

**5. Let us, like these good shepherds, then employ  
our grateful voices to proclaim the joy;  
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;  
treading his steps, assisted by his grace,**

till our first heavenly state again takes place.

**6. Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
he that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all his glory shall display;  
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.**

### **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant may say*

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.*

### ***Gloria in Excelsis S280, The Hymnal 1982***

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**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

<b>People</b>	The Lord be with you.
<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>
	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.

**People    Amen.**

## **First Lesson: 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 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.

**Psalm 147 (or 147:13-21) (BCP, page 804)**

- 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 exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
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 mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 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!

### **Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-35; 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 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.

### **Sequence Hymn 82 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Divinum mysterium*

**1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!**

**2 O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,**

first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

**3** Let the heights of heaven adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

**4** Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!

#### **The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**The Sermon: The Rev. Susan LeSueur**

**The Nicene Creed (BCP, page 358)**

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 III (BCP, page 387)**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

**People:** *That we all may be one.*

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**People:** *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**People:** *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**People:** *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People:** *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People:** *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

**People:** *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People:** *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*



## The Peace

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 247 Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child

*Coventry Carol*

**Burden:**  
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
bye-bye, lully lullay.

his men of might,  
in his own sight,  
all young children to slay.

1. O sisters, too,  
how may we do  
for to preserve this day  
this poor youngling  
for whom we sing,  
bye-bye lully lullay?

3. That woe is me,  
poor child, for thee!  
And every morn and day,  
for thy parting  
nor say nor sing  
bye-bye, lully lullay. [Burden]

2. Herod the King,  
in his raging  
charged he hath this day

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
bye-bye, lully lullay.

**The Doxology: Hymn 380, vs. 3 (*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP, page 367**

*The People remain standing. The Celebrant sings or says*

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 our thanks and praise.**

*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:

**Sanctus (S125, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

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 stand or kneel. 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 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
forever 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.*

## **Agnus Dei (S163, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add*            Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him  
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those unable to receive communion in person today are invited to say the following  
Prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

*In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where  
your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own  
parish and those worshiping there, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for  
creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life,  
death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.*

*And particularly for the blessings given me.... I believe that you are truly present in the  
Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come  
into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and  
my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your  
grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

*(SOURCE:*

*<https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>  
f)*

## **Postcommunion Prayer (BCP, page 366)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant 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.

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people*

**Hymn 93 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*Regent Square*

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with you is now residing;

yonder shines the infant Light:  
[Refrain]

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

4. Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Toccata on 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'* - Alfred Fedak  
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music