



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 4, 2026**

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## 10:10AM

*A prayerful silence precedes the service, beginning at 10:00AM with the ringing of the bells.*

*The parish nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall. Elementary school age children are invited to join in the procession to 'Children in Worship' during the Gloria in excelsis and return at the Peace.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

## WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE WORD OF GOD

## HYMN 116

As with gladness men of old

Dix

## OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 365

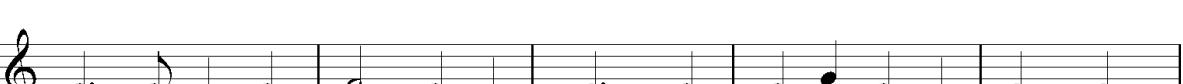
## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

1. Glory to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -


 mighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we

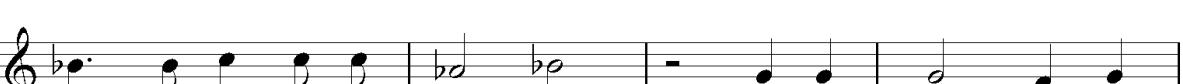

 praise you for your glory. 3. Lord Jesus Christ,


 only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you


 take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;


 5. you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 6. For


 you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,


 7. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the


 Holy Spirit, in the glory of


 God the Father. Amen. A

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. — o o —

A - men.

*The people are seated for the reading of the lessons from sacred scripture.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty.  
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER  
Tone V.1

*The Psalm is sung by the choir.*

Psalm 84  
*Quam dilecta!*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

THE SECOND LESSON

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 92

On this day earth shall ring

*Personent hodie*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

*Gospeler*      The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*Gospeler*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE HOMILY

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.  
All then stand for the Creed.*

## 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 responsively*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:  
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom:  
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders:  
guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity:  
protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross:  
by your healing power, give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,  
**hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect and the people respond, Amen.*

*The Celebrant bids the Confession. Silence may be 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 pronounces the absolution, and the people respond, Amen.*

## THE PEACE

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

*The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### ANTIPHON

*Benedic, anima mea*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;  
and your youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.

### HYMN 98

Unto us a boy is born

*Puer nobis nascutir*

*The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

*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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The Celebrant continues the prayer, recalling God's activity in our salvation history, the institution of the Lord's Supper, and inviting the people to join in saying,*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

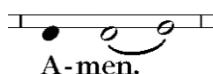
**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues, invoking the Spirit's present work, concluding the prayer, and inviting the people to join in the doxology of the prayer, saying,*

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 for ever.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,**

    hallowed be your Name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
    on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

    as we forgive those who sin against us

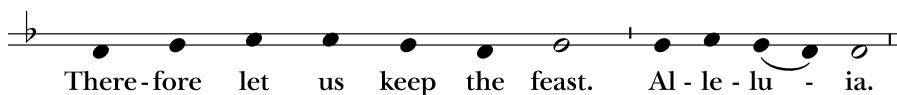
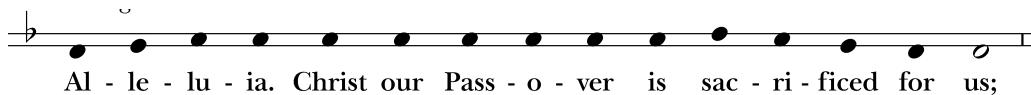
    Save us from the time of trial,  
        and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**  
    now and for ever. Amen.

## FRACTION ANTHEM

S-152

*After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant sings and the People respond,*



## MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you have not been baptized, we would love to talk to you about baptism. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. We kindly ask that you not instinct (dip) the bead into the chalice. If for any reason, you don't want to receive Communion, you are still invited to come forward, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest to signify this to the priest who will offer a blessing.*

### ANTIPHON

*Domine, Dominus noster*

O Lord our governor, how admirable is your name in all the earth!

### AGNUS DEI



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy



on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy



on us. Je-sus, re-deem-er of the world: Give us your peace.

### HYMN 247

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child

*Coventry Carol*

### THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

*The Celebrant and people say together,*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, Amen.*

## HYMN 109

The first Nowell the angel did say

*The First Nowell*

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

*The Celebrant says the dismissal, and the people respond, Thanks be to God.*

## LEADING IN WORSHIP

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege  
*Celebrant & Preacher*

Michelle Curry  
*Verger*

James Bumgardner  
*Choirmaster/Organist*

Thomas McNeil  
*Cantor*

Leslie Billingsley  
*Crucifer*

Walt Ameika, Cecilia Grasinger  
*Eucharistic Ministers*

The setting of the Ordinary of the Mass (*Gloria, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei*)  
is by William Mathias (1934-1992).

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Eucharist	8:00AM
Holy Eucharist (w/choir)	10:10AM

## Worship during the Week

Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday	8:30AM
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday	12:00PM
Holy Days, as announced		

## Parish Staff

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Michael Marshall	Director of Administration & Finance
Bill Devereux	Director of Facilities & Hospitality

## Parish Vestry

Lynn Searfoss, Clerk	Bob Amos	Richard Murphy
Jim Snow	Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden	Peter Purcell, Sr. Warden
Jill Storelli	Bob Rhoads	Dale Marie Sandusky
	Luba Skibo	
	Amanda White, Treasurer	

## St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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