

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



**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
10:10 AM
FEB. 23, 2025**

WELCOME!

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God. Restrooms are located in the hallway beyond the Foyer.

A nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall.

Please silence all electronic devices.

“BCP” page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer* found in the pew rack in front of you. Hymn numbers refer to the blue *Hymnal, 1982* also found in the pew rack. Note that ‘S’ numbers refer to service music and are located at the beginning of the hymnal.

A prayerful silence begins at 10:00AM as the bells ring the hour.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

(All stand as able.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe den Herren

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Celebrant

Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant prays

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.

A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS S 280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY



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

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



A - men.

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

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' "

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37:1-12, 41-42

Noli aemulari

Tone VII.1

The Psalm is sung by the choir.

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;
*
do not be jealous of those who do
wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put
your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as
the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who
prosper, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon
the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no
more; *
you shall search out their place, but they
will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous
comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of
trouble.
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue
them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked
and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.
-

THE SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As

was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

(All stand as able.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 674 “Forgive our sins as we forgive”

Detroit

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

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

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

THE HOMILY

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

(Please be seated for the homily.)

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 intercessor invites the assembly to join in praying for the Church and the world.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord, saying, 'Lord, hear our prayer.'

That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth,
let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church may discover again that unity which is the Father's will,
let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace,
let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole creation, groaning in travail, may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God,

let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may rest in peace and rise in glory, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way, and all who have entrusted themselves to our prayers, to the mercy and protection of God.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

THE OFFERTORY



HYMN 51 We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting



Decatur Place


(All stand as able when Elements are presented at the Altar by the ushers.)

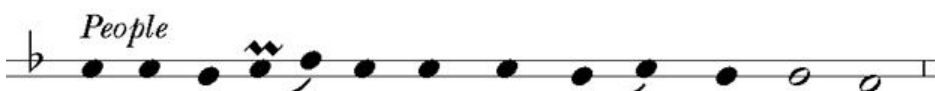
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer B)*

BCP 367

Celebrant  *People* 
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant  *People* 
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant 
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People 
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues the prayer and concludes the preface, saying,

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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:

SANCTUS S 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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 people stand or kneel.)

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

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.



A - men.

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 and People sing responsively,

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE INVITATION TO 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.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

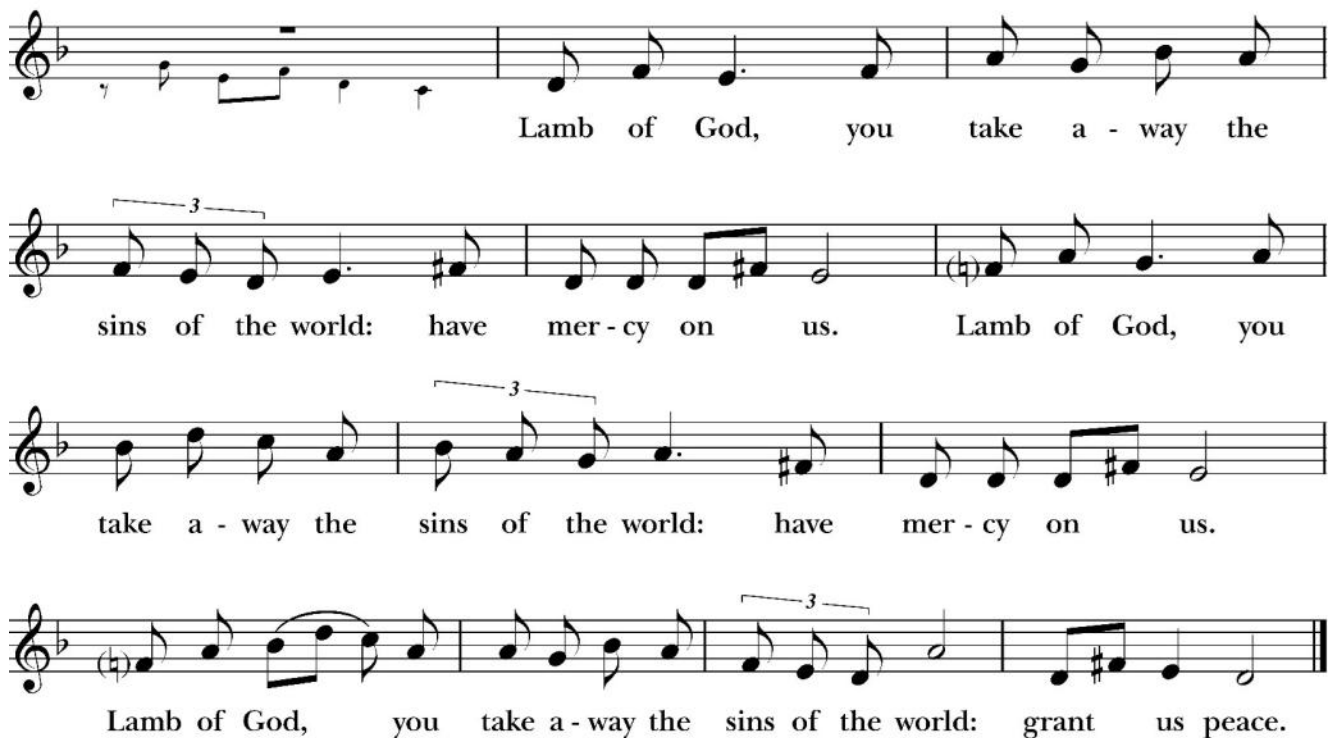
We welcome to communion all who have been baptized in any Christian tradition. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest.

For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, in thanksgiving for the promised gift of your resurrection, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION *(All join to sing.)*

AGNUS DEI S 163



The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The second staff continues with a triplet of eighth notes and the lyrics: "sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you". The third staff also features a triplet and the lyrics: "take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.". The fourth staff concludes with a triplet and the lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The score ends with a double bar line.

HYMN 577

God is Love, and where true love is

Ubi Caritas (Murray)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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 announces God's blessing and the people respond, Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 657

Love divine, all loves excelling

Hyfrydol

THE DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The Ordinary of the Mass is set by Robert Powell (1932-2025).

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant & Homilist

Marc Longlois
Guest Organist

Caroline Goforth
Cantor

Will Postlethwait
Crucifer

Lindsey Postlethwait, Ryan Postlethwait
Eucharistic Ministers

Peter Purcell, Michelle Curry, Mike Austell
Lectors



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

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828.295.7323

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm | Friday: 9 am-noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist: 8 am | Christian Formation: 9 am | Holy Eucharist: 10:10 am

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday – Friday Morning Prayer: 8:30 am | Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Noon

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege | Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman | Assisting Clergy
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster | Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner | Organist/Choirmaster
Lindsey Herring | Director of Christian Formation & Communications
Michael Marshall | Director of Administration & Finance
Bill Devereux | Director of Hospitality & Facilities
Michelle Curry | Verger

For pastoral emergencies, contact The Reverend Andrew J. Hege at:
Office: (828) 295-7323 | Cell: (336) 848-4052 | rector@stmaryofthehills.org

VESTRY

2025: Mike Austell, Sr. Warden | Michelle Curry | Burt Mulford | Sue Sweeting
2026: Marshall Culp, Jr. Warden | Lynn Searfoss | Jim Snow | Jill Storelli
2027: Bob Amos | Mike Matthews | Bob Rhoads | Luba Skibo

Amanda White, Treasurer | Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk