



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025

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 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Antioch

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 365

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 sings the Collect and the people respond,

A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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

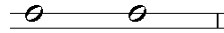
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you. And also with you. 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.



A - men.

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

THE 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 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!

THE SECOND LESSON

Galatians 3:23-25, 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.

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

HYMN 97

Dost thou in a manger lie

Dies est laetitiae

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

*Gospeler
People*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
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.

*Gospeler
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
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

Tui sunt coeli

Ours are the heavens, yours is the earth,
The world and fullness thereof have been founded by you.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

HYMN 93

Angels from the realms of glory

Regent Square

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

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 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

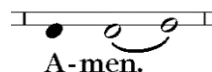
Christ has died.

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.

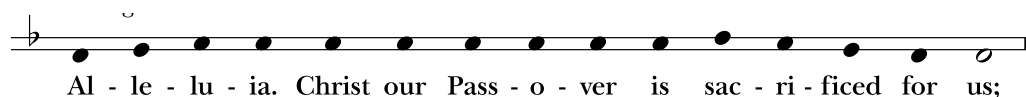
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

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 intinct (dip) the bread 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

Viderunt omnes

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation which comes from our God.

AGNUS DEI



HYMN 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy

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 87

Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

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

Marc Longlois
Guest Organist

Thomas McNeil
Cantor

Will Postlethwait
Crucifer

Lindsey Postlethwait; Ryan Postlethwait
Eucharistic Minister

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

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

Mike Austell, Sr. Warden	Lynn Searfoss	Bob Amos
Michelle Curry	Jim Snow	Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden
Burt Mulford	Jill Storelli	Bob Rhoads
Sue Sweeting		Luba Skibo

Amanda White, Treasurer

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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