



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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 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 Trisagion and return at the Peace.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

HYMN 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Merton

OPENING ACCLAMATION & SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP 351

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 reads one or more sentences from scripture.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

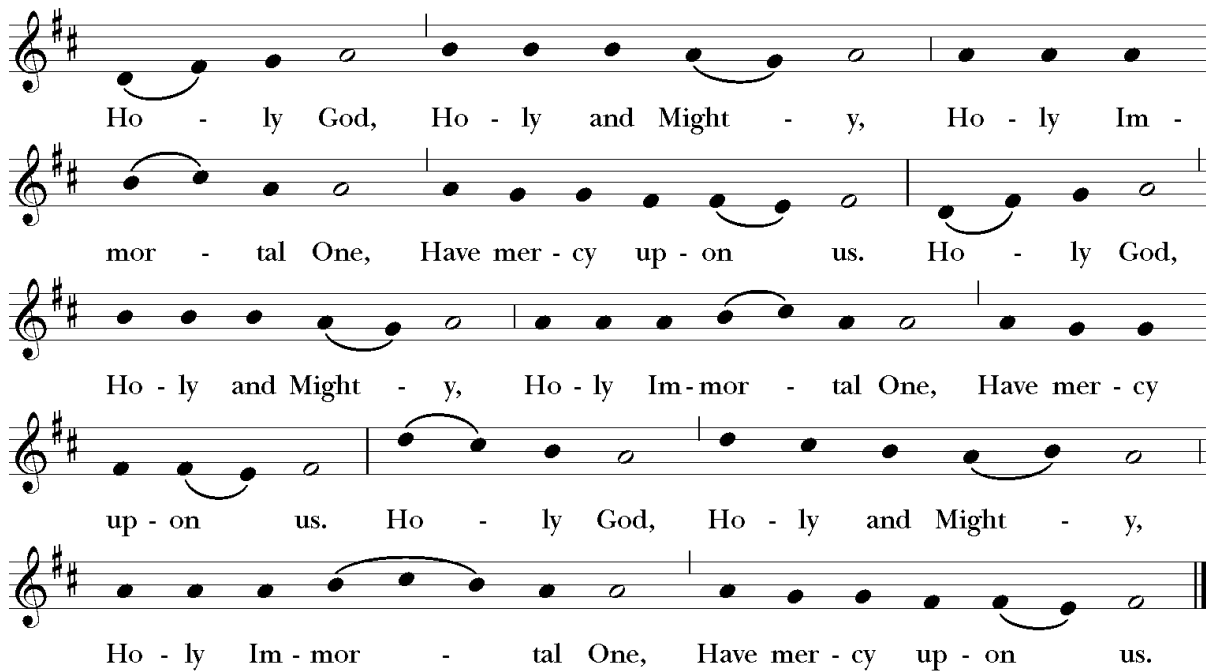
The Celebrant bids the Confession. Silence may be kept.

**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.

TRISAGION



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
 mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
 Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
 up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

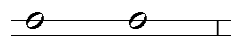
THE WORD OF GOD

COLLECT OF THE DAY



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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 15: 4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden vag for Herran

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3: 1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Common Worship

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father.

Silence is kept. The Celebrant then prays,

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **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

Deus, tu convertens

You will turn toward us, O God, and restore our life again, and your people will rejoice in you.
Show us, lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.

CAROL—*Remember, O thou man*

Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1635)

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember O thou man, thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man, how thou cam'st to me then,
And I did what I can, therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man!
Remember Adam's fall from heaven to hell!
Remember Adam's fall, how we were condemned all
To hell perpetual, there for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man!
Remember God's goodness, and promise made!
Remember God's goodness, how His only Son He sent
Our sins for to redress, be not afraid!

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

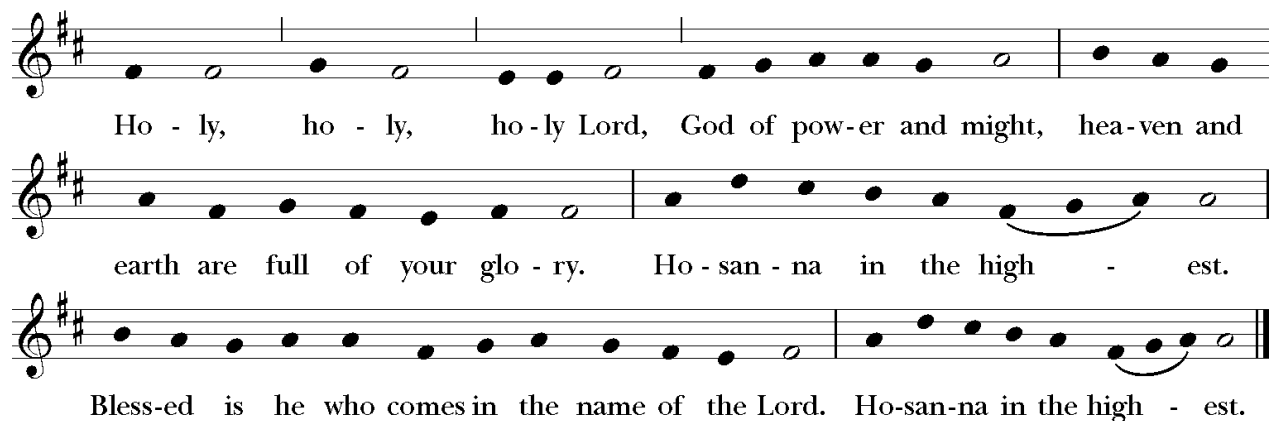
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right, and good and joyful to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:



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 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

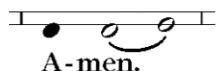
Christ has died.

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,

Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise for ever and 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

After the Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, all sing,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

Jerusalem, surge

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high;
And behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.

HYMN 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

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

HYMN 462

The Lord will come and not be slow

York

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

Caroline Hendren
Cantor

Leslie Billingsley
Crucifer

Helene Harper
Eucharistic Minister

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

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

P. O. Box 14 - 140 Chestnut Drive
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605-0014

www.stmaryofthehills.org

828.295.7323