



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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 8, 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 497

How bright appears the Morning Star

*Wie schön leuchtet*

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 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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. — — —

A - men.

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?  
  
Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

THE PSALTER  
Tone IV.4

*The Psalm is sung by the choir.*

Psalm 112  
*Beatus vir*

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!  
Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!
- <sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- <sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
the desires of the wicked will perish.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

## HYMN 488

Be thou my vision

*Slane*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

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

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

*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

from *Common Worship*

*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.'

*Silence*

That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth,

*Silence*

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Church may discover again that unity which is the Father's will,

*Silence*

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,

*Silence*

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 freedom of the children of God,

*Silence*

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,

*Silence*

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.***

## 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.***

## 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

*Perfice gressus meos*

Render secure my footsteps in your paths so that my feet do not slip;  
Incline your ear and hear my words;  
display your wonderful mercies, O Lord, Savior of those who place their hope in you.

## ANTHEM—*Lord, we beseech thee*

Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

Lord, we beseech thee, give ear unto our prayers,  
and by thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts,  
by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

## 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*

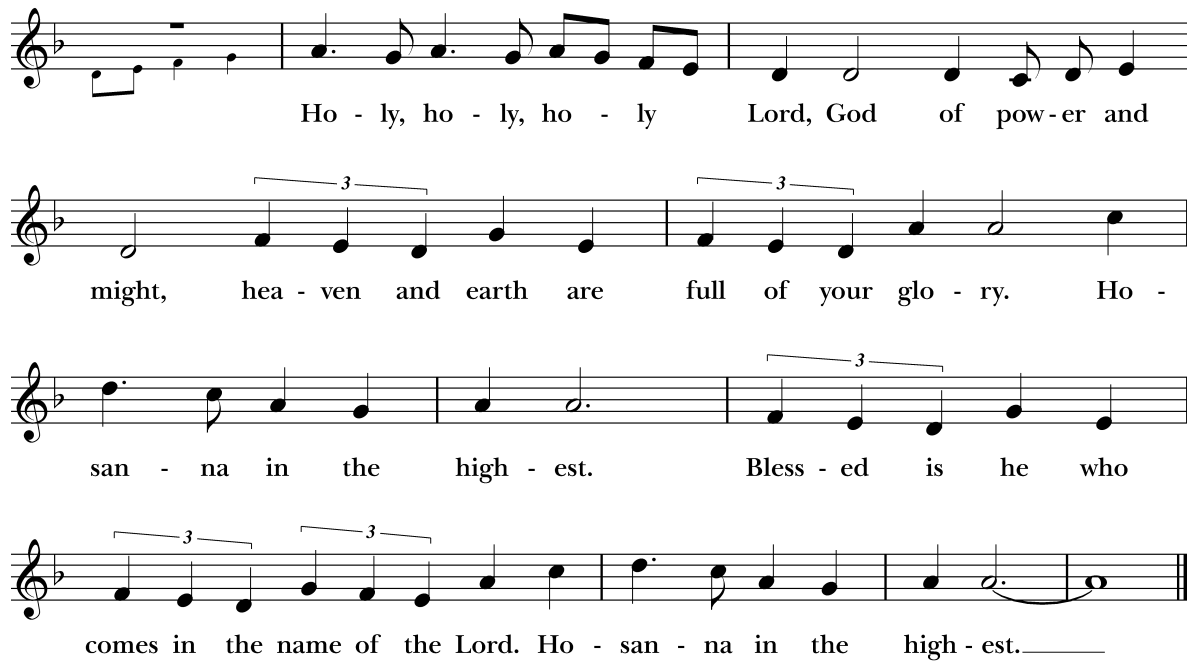
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant 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:



*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*

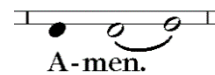
**We remember his death.**

**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.



## 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**

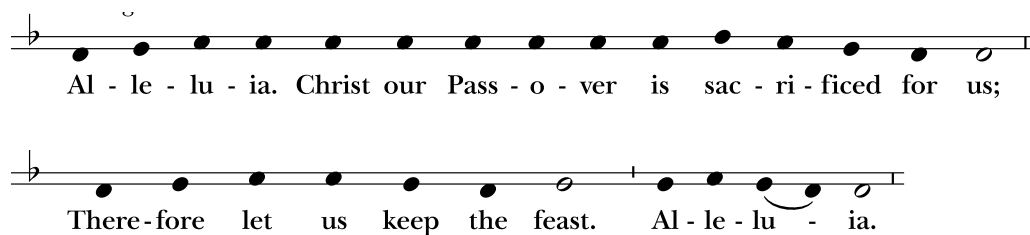
**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

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

**now and for ever. Amen.**

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



## MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

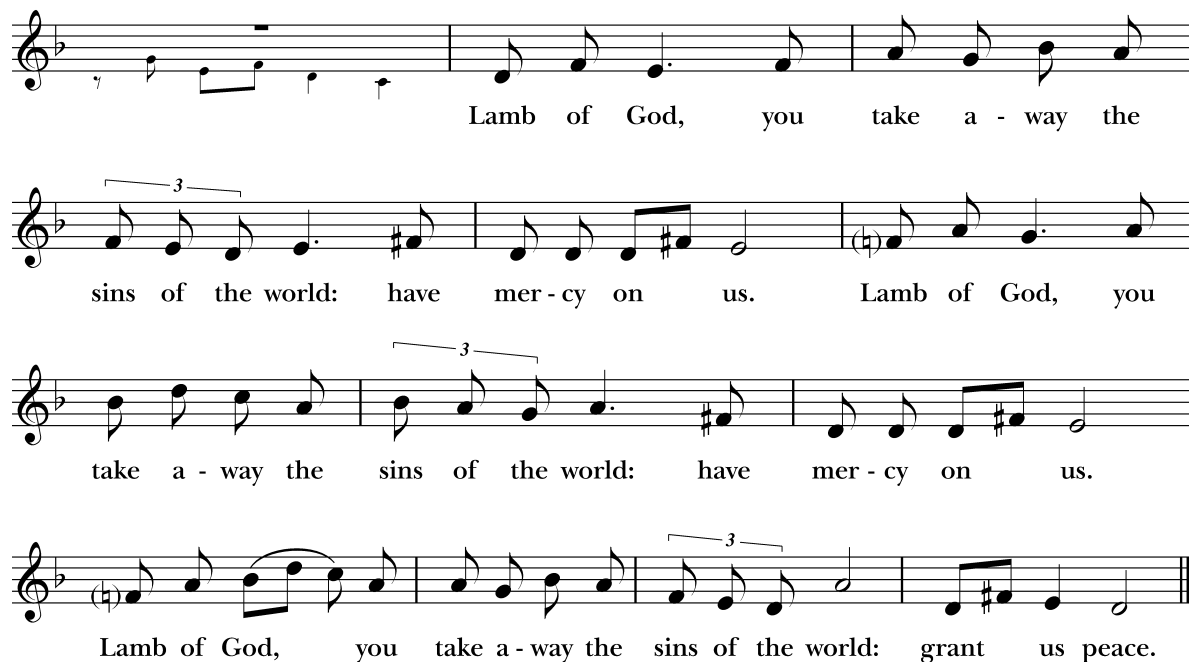
*All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you have not been baptized, we would love to talk to you about baptism. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched 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

*Introibo*

I will go in to the altar of God, to the God who gives joy to my youth.

## AGNUS DEI



## HYMN 126

The people who in darkness walked

*Dundee*

*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 334

Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing

*Alles ist an Gottes Segen*

THE DISMISSAL

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

The setting of the Ordinary of the Mass (*Gloria, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei*)  
is by Robert Powell (1932-2025).

# 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

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

[www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org)

828.295.7323