

The First Sunday After Christmas



Sunday, December 28, 2025
10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

~ where everyone is welcome ~

806 THOMPSON ROAD

RICHMOND, TX 77469

281.342.2147

WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG

THE REV. RALPH B. MORGAN, RECTOR

THE REV. NANCY WILKES, DEACON

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN 87 - Hark! the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

REFRAIN:

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN AGES 5 THRU 5TH GRADE MAY FOLLOW THE CROSS TO CHILDREN'S CHAPEL DURING THE PRAISE HYMN

PRAISE HYMN 96 - Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE COLLECT

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. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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.

Thanks be to God.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS**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.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN - Away in a Manger

1. *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*
2. *The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.*
3. *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

SERMON RESPONSE - Grace Flows Down

<i>Amazing grace, how sweet the sound</i>	<i>And covers me</i>
<i>Amazing love, now flowing down</i>	<i>And covers me</i>
<i>From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree</i>	<i>And covers me</i>
<i>Grace flows down and covers me</i>	<i>And covers me</i>

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

Form III, BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Héctor, and Brian, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; and Nancy, our Deacon.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially those we name now, either silently or aloud, and _____;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially _____;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)

Eternal Lord God, we give you thanks for bringing us to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrongs we have done in the year that is past. Strengthen our faith, inspire our ministries, and deepen our witness in the new year before us. Help us to spend the rest of our days to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY - A Christmas Hallelujah

*I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

*A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place, for you were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only son was born, oh Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

*The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels lead them all to you
It was just as the angels said
You'll find him in a manger bed
Immanuel our Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

*A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for you
And to the place at which you were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to you and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

*I know you came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man, and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in you
The rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath you drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah (X2)*

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 361

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(the priest adds a Proper Preface)*

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:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory (repeat)
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (repeat)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 forever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.***

Canterbury Version

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION SONG 1 - **Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone**

1. **Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see.**

3. **The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

4. **The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine.**

CHORUS:

**My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy reigns,
Unending love, Amazing Grace.**

COMMUNION SONG 2 - **How Deep the Father's Love for Us**

1. **How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure.
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.**

3. **I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

2. **Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** *(these words may differ from time to time)*

CLOSING SONG - Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

1. Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shining afar thru shadows dim
Giving a light for those who long have gone
And guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
And guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

2. Oh beautiful Star the hope of light
Guiding the pilgrim thru the night
Over the mountain 'til the break of dawn
And into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
And into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

3. Oh beautiful Star the hope of rest
For the redeemed the good and blest
Yonder in glory when the crown is won
For Jesus is now that Star divine
Brighter and brighter He will shine
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
For Jesus is now that Star divine
Brighter and brighter He will shine
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *(these words may differ from time to time)*
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



PLEASE SIGN UP TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One

Flower offerings may be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under **giving/altar flowers**.

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance. Please call the church office with questions.

CALVARY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

CALVARY STAFF

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

Jamie Campbell, Interim Parish Administrator

Jamie Campbell, Newcomer Coordinator

William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister

Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator

Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director

Ross Elkins, POGS Worship Leader

Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan

713-818-6323

281-797-5246

nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

rmorgan@ces-richmond.org

CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Pledged Amount for 2025: \$561,310

Year-To-Date Giving: \$539,691