



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL AND
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCHES

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY



Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #93 - Angels from the realms of glory*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant and People then say

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.

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** [The people may be seated for the readings]

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah (31:7 – 14),

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 147:12 - 20

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who await his gracious favor.

*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.

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (1:3 - 6,15 - 19a),

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #124 - What star is this, with beams so bright (v. 1 - 3)*

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau-teous
 2 True spake the pro-phet from a-far who told the
 3 The guid-ing star a-bove is bright; with-in them

1 than the noon-day light? It shines to her-ald
 2 rise of Ja-cob's star; and east-ern sa-ges
 3 shines a clear-er light, and leads them on with

1 forth the King, and Gen-tiles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a-maze up-on the won-drous to-ken gaze.
 3 power be-nign to seek the Giv-er of the sign.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Chandler (1807-1876), alt. Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Cowley Carol Book*, 1902.

[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:1 - 18) (*KJV*)

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

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

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [**Please stand, as you are able**] (see note on insert)

*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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 IV [The people may be seated]

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The People may add their own petitions.

Within the Saint Stephen's and Bethlehem Lutheran family, please remember in your prayers this week: ***Carl, Dominic, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Mary & Paul, Virginia, Tammy, Kelly, Eva, Josh, Mike, Mike & Janice, Howard & Dona, Steve Amanda and family, Danielle, Jaime and family, Jennifer, Karly, Katie, Laura, Lyndsee and family, and Libby.***

Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work

together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 824)

For Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people **[Please stand, as you are able]**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Offertory Sentences

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's Name; bring offerings and come into God's courts. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #324* - Let all mortal flesh keep silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea-ven spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; cher-u-bim with

trem-bling stand; pon-der noth-ing earth-ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu-man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de-
 sleep-less eye veil their fac-es to the

mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
 ves-ture, in the Bo-dy and the Blood
 scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,
 Pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de-scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!"

our full hom-age to de-mand.
 his own self for heaven-ly food.
 as the dark-ness clears a-way.
 Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Anthem

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise
 him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye
 heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer A [Please stand, as you are able]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God 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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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._____

Then the Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

***And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant then says

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.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]

Almighty and everliving God,

*we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood*

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #497* - How bright appears the Morning Star

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
 2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
 3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
 pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
 fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - ous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
 the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
 In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
 phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
 Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

*Celebrant
 People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God.



“The Light of the World” by Frank Wesley, 20th century



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