

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS DAY**

DECEMBER 26, 2021 • 8:00 A.M.



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE I

COVID UPDATE: *Fully vaccinated people may remove their masks once seated. They may sit with other fully vaccinated people as they wish.*

This service will include unmasked participants which can elevate the possibility of COVID-19 transmission. If you are not fully vaccinated you are at higher susceptibility of contracting COVID-19. Please weigh your risk accordingly before deciding whether to participate.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION The Book of Common Prayer, page 323

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY323

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW324

Celebrant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

GLORIA324

**Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY.....161

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Celebrant Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ² 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. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

PSALM 147:13-21 *Laudate Dominum*805

**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

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through

him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (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.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Rebecca Michelfelder

THE NICENE CREED.....326

Celebrant and People

**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 PEOPLE329

Reader Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Reader Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers; especially Michael, our presiding bishop; Sam and Anne, our bishops; and Becky, our priest; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present, that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joe, our president; Roy, our governor; and Sandy, our mayor; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

We ask thee to watch over _____, and all others who are preparing for the birth or adoption of a child.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor _____, those affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and others we name now silently or aloud...; and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, [especially _____] beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN.....330

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

COMFORTABLE WORDS332

Celebrant Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.
Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

THE PEACE.....332

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY333

After the offering is brought forward, the Celebrant and People say

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer II).....340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant 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.....337

After the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

AGNUS DEI337

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People **grant us thy peace.**

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS337

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION338

Celebrant 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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION338

You may now proceed up the center aisle maintaining social distancing and receive the bread at the bottom of the steps, then return to your seats using the side aisles. As always, please follow the directions of the usher. The Celebrant will stand at a distance, and the wine will not be administered. Gluten free wafers are available. If you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, simply fold your hands and the Celebrant will be happy to offer that instead (but without laying-on-of-hands).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION339

Celebrant Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL340

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to the parish hall following the service
for conversation (with social distancing) and coffee.*

8:00 A.M. SERVERS

Altar Guild Jeanette Belfield and Lalor Smith
Celebrant Rebecca Michelfelder
Hospitality H.I. Tharrington
Reader Lalor Smith

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

December 27 Anne Craig
December 28 Mary Dawson
December 29 Quintin Mangano
December 30 Fred Frohbose
December 31 Courtney Bondy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany Pageant - Sunday, January 2nd, 10:30 a.m.

We will be having an Epiphany Pageant at the 10:30 a.m. service on January 2nd. We need children to fill the roles of angels, shepherds, wise men, a star, and animals. The Holy Family has already been cast. There will be a brief rehearsal and time to get into costumes (the church has plenty of costumes) at 9:45 that morning. Please contact Lawrence Goering at lgoering@goodshepherdrmt.org or 252-442-1134 (ext. 5) if your child would like to participate.

Morning Prayer, Rite II is offered in the church on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church has a Food Pantry which is open 9:00-11:00 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Pick up is available once a month. An I.D. is required. Please pass this info on to those in need. St. Andrew's is located off of Sunset Avenue at 301 Circle Drive.

Altar Flower Donations will once again be accepted by the flower guild in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, a loved one. The cost is \$60.00. For more information or to schedule, please contact Tom in the church office at tparker@goodshepherdrmt.org.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially Lucy Turner, Jeanette Belfield, John Tulloss, Sherry Lee , Gail Jenkins, Albert Ervin, Mary Dawson, Denise Meredith, Peggy Parker, Donna Carmical, Eva Thompson, Joe Anderson, Patsy Gilliland, Reid McAuley, the Johnson family, Peter Gilliland, Suzanne Sifford, Becky Bryan, Brent Wilson, Kitty Hudgins, Mary Kathleen Duncan, Lee Hux, Elizabeth "Sister" Cherry, Jeffrey Reddick, Linda Knight, Kathryn Kelly, Ann Hartley, Frances Gaither, James Boles, and Lib Blackburn.

For the blessings of this life.

For those preparing for the birth of a child, especially Mary Boyd and Christopher Chenery

For those who have died, especially Patsy Dickens, Henry Dickens, Pegram Johnson, Michelle Stotesbury, Alice Proctor Witten, and Barry Chesis.

VESTRY

Class of 2021
Jeannette Belfield
Deborah Burnette
Mary Palmer

Class of 2022
Albert Ervin
Reuben Harris
Catie Roche

Class of 2023
Ben Blackburn
John Mebane
Jim Mullen

Senior Warden Mary Palmer
Clerk Lisa Godwin

Junior Warden
Treasurer Jon Colston

STAFF

*Email can be sent to the prefix listed below by each person's name,
followed by @goodshepherdrmt.org*

(e.g. Lawrence Goering is lgoering@goodshepherdrmt.org)

Mary Alston, *Head Nursery Attendant*

Lawrence Goering (lgoering), *Organist and Director of Music*

Ernest Jones (ejones), *Bookkeeper*

Rebecca Michelfelder (rmichelfelder), *Interim Rector*

Tom Parker (tparker), *Parish Administrator*

Carolyn Thomas (cthomas), *Director of the Day School*

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL**

**231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.goodshepherdrmt.org (252) 442-1134**

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite II – livestreamed at *gslive.org*)

Wednesday Service

7:30 a.m. (Morning Prayer, Rite II)