

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 10:30am

The Rt. Reverend Russell Kendrick, Bishop The Reverend William M. Lowry III, Rector

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

People O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant Show us your mercy, O Lord.
People And grant us your salvation.

Celebrant Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from light,

leads us into the light and reveals his holiness.

With confidence let us make our prayer:

People Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us.

People Awaken our faith from sleep.

Celebrant Guard us from all harm today.

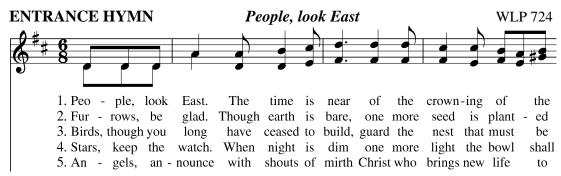
People May your glory fill us with joy.

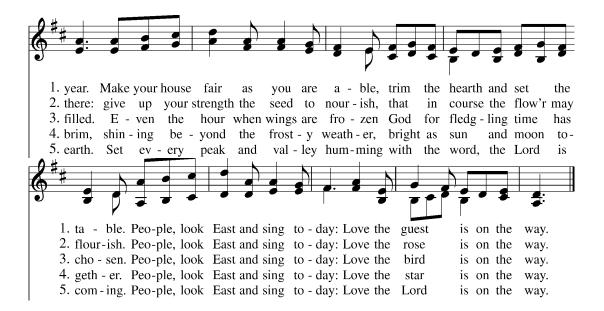
Celebrant Give us unfailing gentleness at all times,

People toward everyone we meet.

Celebrant Come to create a new earth for us,

People where there will be justice and peace. Amen.





The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

The Celebrant may say

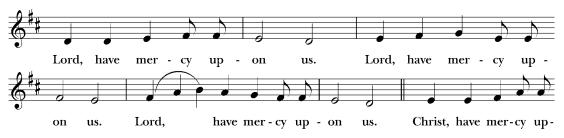
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

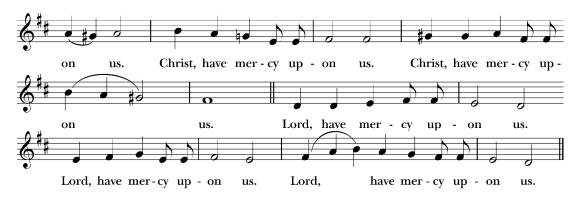
SONG OF PRAISE

Lord, have mercy upon us

Hymnal S 91

The following is sung, all standing as able





THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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. *Amen*.

The Lessons

The people sit.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Please read with me the Psalm responsively by half verse. (Responses in bold.)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, * and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

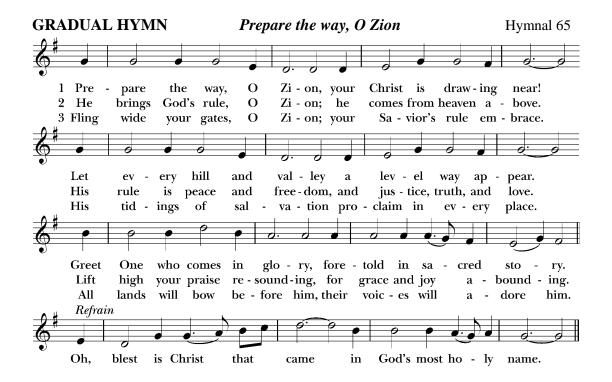
A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the

day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Silence may follow.



GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

All stand as able.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah

in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Will Lowry

Brief moment of silence to follow.

THE CREED BCP p. 358

All stand as able.

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

All remain standing as able.

Presider: Gracious and loving God, your prophets sing the Advent call to prepare the way; hear our prayers, for the whole human family: May your ways may be made straight, the valleys filled, the mountains lowered, the crooked straightened, and the rough places smoothed, that all humanity shall see your salvation, as we pray: Let the dawn from on high break upon us; to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Litanist: Holy One, you have set your Church free through our mighty Savior Jesus Christ that we might worship you without fear, holy and righteous in your sight all the days of our life: Bring to completion the good work you have begun among us. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Russell, our Bishop; Will, our Rector; and all other clergy and ministers of your church.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Eternal One, through your prophets you speak your word to rulers and governors: Grant them your wisdom that they may lead us with joy in the light of your glory, with the mercy and righteousness that comes from you. We pray especially for Joe, our President; Donald, our President-elect; Kay, our Governor; Robert, our Mayor and Tony, Mayor of Orange Beach.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Compassionate One, hear the voice of all who cry out in the wilderness – those who suffer from violence or oppression; the poor and discouraged; and all who long for the promise of new life – comfort everyone with your compassion and love. We pray especially for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine and all victims of violence. Bring your peace to our world.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Loving One, you visit this community with your power and compassion: Let everyone among us take off the garment of sorrow and affliction and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. We pray for all First Responders, Law Enforcement and Members of the Armed Forces, both at home and abroad, especially our parishioner Chris.

Let the dawn from on high break upon us;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Healing One, you anoint our ministries with the compassion of Jesus Christ that we may share God's grace with all for whom we pray: Hear our intercessions on behalf of our parishioners Cal, Carol, Mike, Norma, Betty, Al, Norma, Kimberly, Wiley, Jane, Jackie, Ava, Dawn, Pam, Daphne, Anne, Sonya, Sara, Evie, Joy, Doris and all on our prayer list.

Accept the joy of our thanksgiving for the many blessings that come from your tender compassion.

Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, as we remember those who have died.

In the day of Christ may they be pure and blameless having produced a harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Let the dawn from on high break upon us;

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Presider: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set us free: Give us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins, that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight, until we come into the day of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for evermore. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

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 BCP p. 360

All stand as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

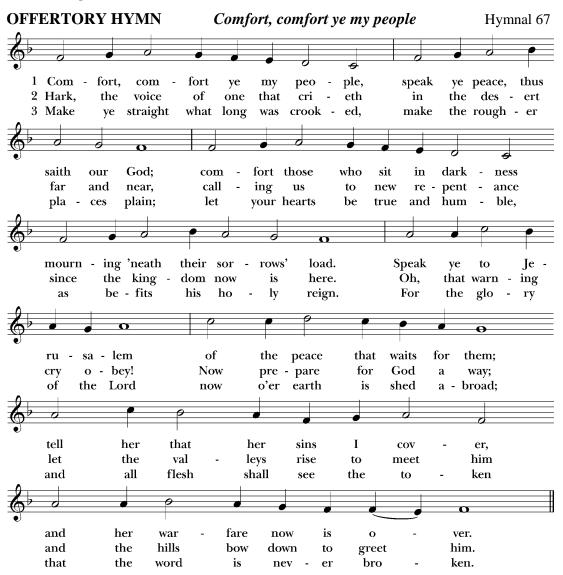
ANNOUNCEMENTS BLESSING OF DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

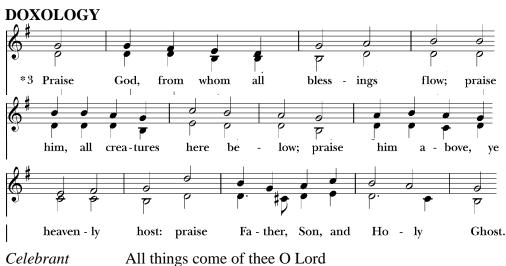
The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*





People

And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing as able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And also with you. Lift up your hearts. Celebrant People 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.

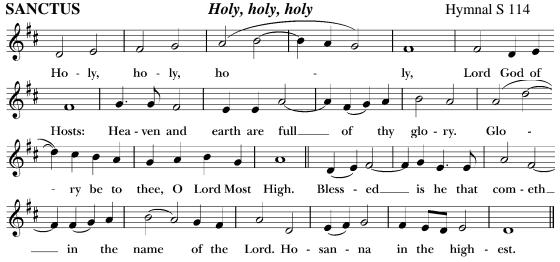
Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 People stand or kneel as able.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, 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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. *AMEN*.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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,

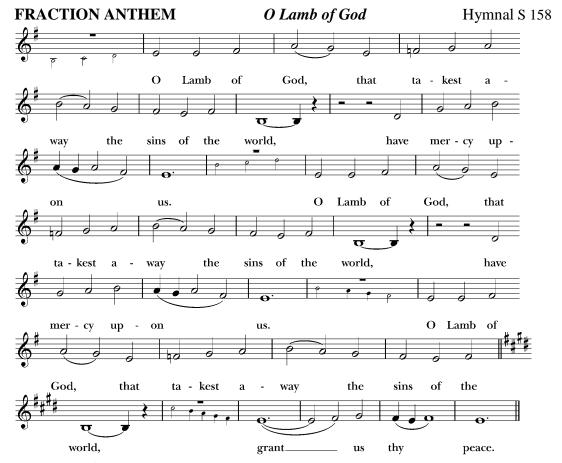
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION BCP p. 364

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*



INVITATION

The Celebrant says

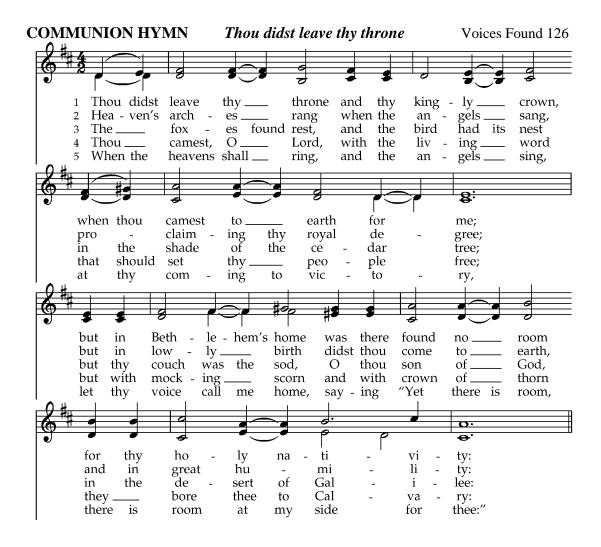
This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before, You who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, not because the Church invites you; It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

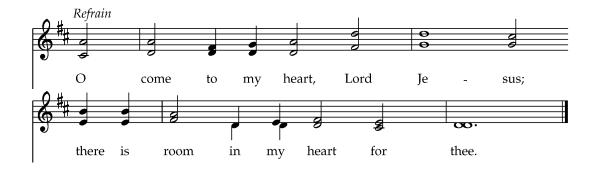
DISTRIBUTION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. Wine may be received by drinking from the chalice or by intinction. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Priest blesses the people, saying

As you leave this place, go forth in peace. Be assured that the past is forgiven and know that the future is in God's hands. Return no evil for evil, remember the poor, pray for the sick, and make no peace with injustice in this world. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen*



DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All who seek to know God in a deeper and more meaningful way are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive the Sacraments, just cross your arms and a blessing will be given instead. Gluten free communion wafers are available. Please ask the priest as communion is distributed.

NURSERY: We provide a nursery for your convenience for infants and children up to 4 years old. We invite you to bring your child back from the nursery for communion, preferably during the Peace and Announcements.

Those for whom we pray: Cal & Carol Hanson, Mike & Norma Minchew, Katherine Stribling (Jan Waggoner), Marilyn Lewis (Lillian Bemis), Carrietta Nelson (Lillian Bemis), Al Vondrasek, Norma Black-Glossop, Kathi Dolder (Sue Wiggins), Judi Kuntz (Ann Lofaro), Kimberly Worthy, Deloma Bigham (Rhonda Barber), Wiley Ashley, Laura Hermecz (Lillian Bemis), Jane Taylor, Jayne Sharp (Lillian Bemis), Abe & Dianne Kattawar (Rose Johnson), Lisa Kanuth (Kimberly Worthy), Mikki Stanley (Kimberly Worthy), Nancy Jones (Marilyn & Bobby Quinn), Terry Kilpatrick (Lillian Bemis), Jackie Jabour, Ava Trivett, Debbie, Dave, Eloise & Gigi Welch (Margaret Divito), Mary Ruth Burnes (Lillian Bemis), Valerie Kot (Lillian Bemis), Valerie Wilk (Lillian Bemis), Dawn Johnson, Pam Webster, Daphne Grimsley, Seeley Lewis (Marilyn Quinn), Anne Meydrech, Matthew Gilbertson (Sam Nelson), Sonya Urquhart, Kimberly Brand (Jan Waggoner), Justin Requena (Carolyn Towery), Sara Walker, Helen Lauderdale & family (Witt Lauderdale), Evie Loftin, Joyce Marie Borck (Norma Black-Glossop), Melissa Mackey (Lillian Bemis), Joy Howell, Doris Kimmerlin, Carol Lautenschlager (Nancy & Steve Campbell), Sherry Jo Johnson (Rose Johnson), Kristen Orrell (Ellie Brandon)

For all First Responders, Law Enforcement and Members of the Armed Forces: Phil Gurney (USN), Blake Buskens (USA), Charlie Conner (USA), Chris Miller (GSPD), Joseph Callaway (USN), Savannah Kichler Isenburg (USAF), Jacob Wetzler (USN), Luc Lau (USM), Jack Taylor (USN), Snap Nelson (USMCR), Callaway Williamson (USN), Zachary Russell (USAF), Cailan Ross Ashley (USCG), Joshua Cooper (USA), Margaret Lloyd (USN)

In Thanksgiving for Birthdays in December: Cliff Withers (3rd), Dick Blake (6th), Jackie Jabour (10th), Norah Grace Lowry (12th), Janece Allgood (13th), James Howell (13th), Norma Black-Glossop (19th), Jeanie Blake (19th)

In Thanksgiving for Anniversaries in December: Rhonda & Joe Barber (29th)

Servers

Youth Acolyte-Elton Howell

Chalice Bearer- Dave Liebenow

Lectors- Jeanie Blake & Dave Liebenow

Ushers- Steve & Margaret Griffin

Altar Guild- Judy Allen, Joy Branch, Nancy Campbell, June Hayles,

Fr Bill Ericson, Leah Reader

Flower Guild- Rose Johnson & Sandra Garth Pancerz

Beadle- Dave Liebenow

Vestry

Dick Reid ('24), Sr. Warden Sam Nelson ('25), Jr. Warden Joy Branch ('24)

Gene Poole ('24)

Nancy Campbell ('25), Clerk

John Stomps ('25) David Adams ('26) Joe Barber ('26)

Dave Liebenow ('26)

Staff

The Rev. Will Lowry-Rector

Dr. Julian Jesubatham-Music Director Greg Engell-Assistant Music Director Morgen Szapiel-Parish Administrator Ivee Lowry-Day School Director Shellie Ronan-Thrift Shop Manager

Attendance December 1 8am-20 10:30am-62

Contact Us

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FB page: www.facebook.com/holyspiritepgulfshores

2025 Pledge Cards: Scan the QR Code to access the digital pledge card. Paper pledge cards are available in the Parish Hall or contact the church office. We encourage you to prayerfully consider the amount you would like to pledge. Your contribution is invaluable and deeply appreciated in supporting the Church's efforts to achieve its goals.



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