



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

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 Trisagion and return at the Peace.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

HYMN 76

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

OPENING ACCLAMATION & SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP 351

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 reads one or more sentences from scripture.

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.

TRISAGION

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
 mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
 Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
 up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

THE WORD OF GOD

COLLECT OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. — — —

A - men.

The people are seated for the reading of the lessons from sacred scripture.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

HYMN 70

Herald, sound the note of judgement

Herald, Sound

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11: 2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

<i>Gospeler</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege

*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.

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father.

Silence is kept. The Celebrant then prays,

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **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

Benedixisti, Domine

O Lord, you have blessed your land, you have put an end to Jacob's captivity;
You have forgiven the guilt of your people.

CAROL—*Rín, rín, chíu*

from Cancionero de Upsala, 1556

[With a cry of] Rín, rín, chíu, the kingfisher, God kept the wolf from our Lamb.

The rabid wolf tried to bite her but God Almighty knew how to defend her
He wished to create her impervious to sin nor was this maid to embody original sin.
Rín, rín, chíu...

The newborn child is the mightiest monarch, Christ patriarchal invested with flesh.
He made himself small and so redeemed us: He who was infinite became finite.
Rín, rín, chíu...

He comes to give life to the dead; he comes to redeem the fall of man
This child is the light of day. He is the very lamb Saint John prophesied.
Rín, rín, chíu...

Caroline Hendren and John Lynch, soloists

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 1

ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

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.

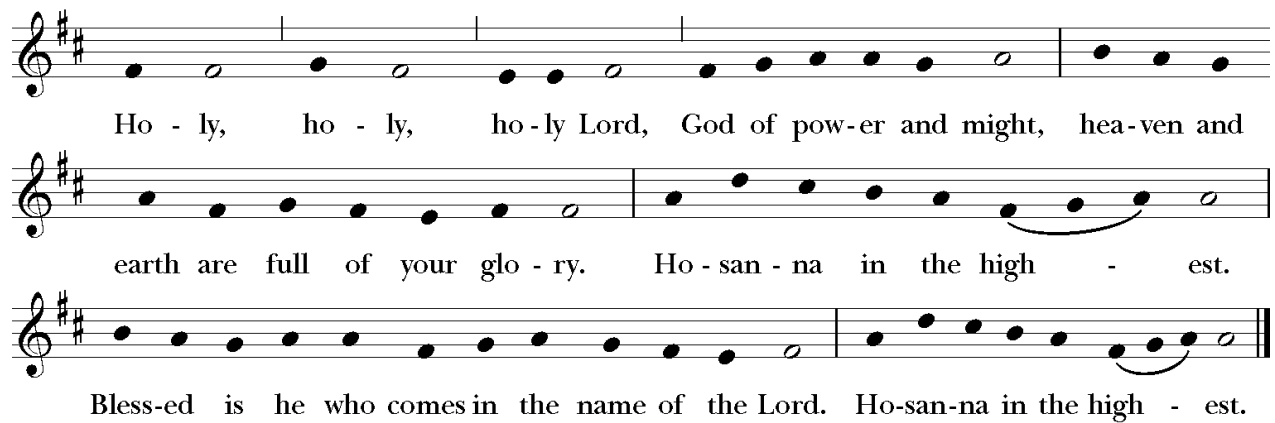
People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right, and good and joyful to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices
with all creation as we sing:



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 we proclaim the mystery of faith

Celebrant and People

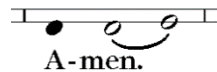
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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,

Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise for ever and 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,

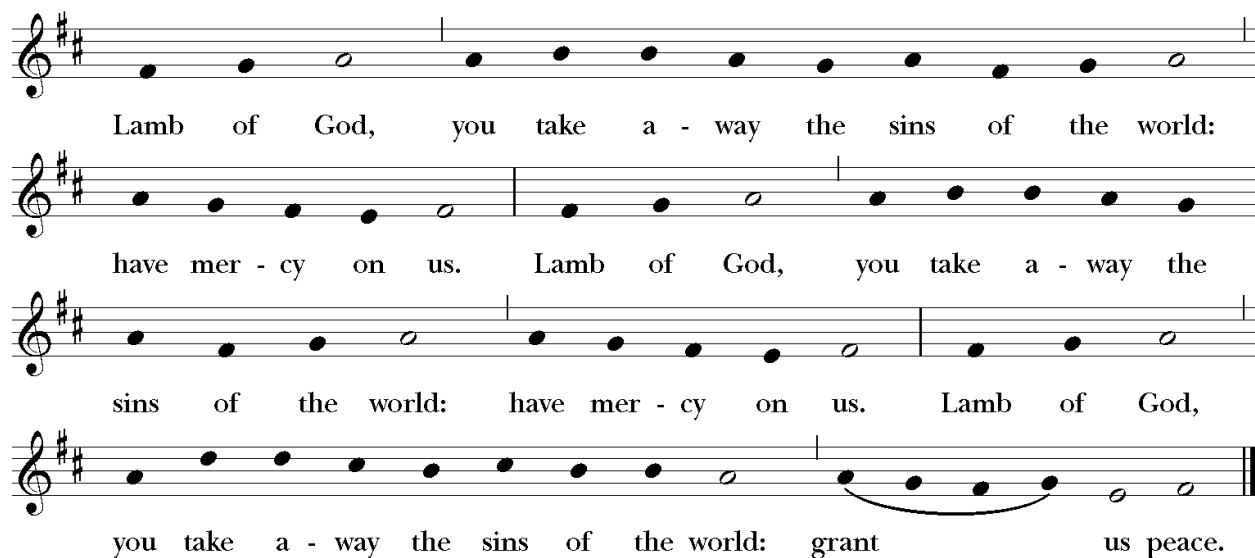
and deliver us from evil.

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

now and for ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

After the Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, all sing,



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

Say: Take courage, you who are fainthearted, and do not fear;
Behold, our God will come and he will save us.

Dicite: Pusillanimes

HYMN 69

What is the crying at Jordan

St. Mark's, Berkeley

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

HYMN 68

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

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

The Mass setting (*Trisagion, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei*)
is New Plainsong by David Hurd (b. 1950).

LEADING IN WORSHIP

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant & Preacher

Michelle Curry
Verger

James Bumgardner
Choirmaster/ Organist

John Lynch
Cantor

Hannah Reule
Crucifer

Peter Purcell, Valerie Purcell
Eucharistic Minister

Darlene Van Dyke, Bill Devereux, Billie Rogers
Eucharistic Minister

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

Mike Austell, Sr. Warden	Lynn Searfoss	Bob Amos
Michelle Curry	Jim Snow	Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden
Burt Mulford	Jill Storelli	Bob Rhoads
Sue Sweeting		Luba Skibo

Amanda White, Treasurer

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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