

# First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

8:00 AM



Welcome to St. Richard's! We are so glad you're here! For more information about worshipping with us and receiving Communion, please see the last page of this order of service.

## Holy Eucharist - Rite I

### The Word of God

BCP = *Book of Common Prayer* (red book)

*The people standing, the Celebrant says,*

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

BCP, p. 323

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

### The Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 323

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. **Amen.**

### The Summary of the Law

BCP, p. 324

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.

### The Gloria

BCP, p. 324

**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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## The Lessons *The people may be seated*

### The First Reading *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.

*Leader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 147

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

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.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.

Hallelujah!

## The Second Reading

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.

*Leader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

*People*      **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*      **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

### Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 327

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,**

**and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.**

**And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Please stand or kneel, as you are able.*

BCP, p. 328

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

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 Sarah, our Archbishop-elect; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Hector, Kai, and Brian, our Bishops; and Jerry, our deacon, 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 Donald, our President, the Congress and Courts, Greg, our Governor, and Craig, 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.

Bless and guide those who have been called to serve on our Rector Search Committee. Grant them discerning hearts, patient spirits, and unity of purpose. Keep them steadfast in prayer, open to your Holy Spirit, and attentive to the needs, hopes, and faith of this parish. May they be faithful stewards of your mission, seeking not their own will but yours alone. Give them clarity in conversation, courage in decision, and joy in the knowledge that you are present in every step of this journey.

Bless also those whom you are calling to discern with us, that together we may be led to a rector who will proclaim your Gospel, care for your people, and walk with us in love and service.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity; especially those on our parish prayer list listed in the printed newsletter in the order of service. We also pray for those the congregation wishes to name at this time, either silently or aloud, and those impacted by the conflict around the world.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, including those the congregation wishes to name at this time at this time, either silently or aloud, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of blessed Richard and 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. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 330

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*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. **Amen.**

*One or more of the following sentences is said:*

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

*The Celebrant invites all to stand as they are able.*

BCP, p. 332

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And with thy spirit**

*Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements

## The Holy Communion

*Offertory plates are located in the back of the Nave. You may contribute before or after the service, or give online via text (text 73256, with the message: **strichard** – please note: no “s” or caps). You may also go to the giving page on our website, [www.saintrichards.org](http://www.saintrichards.org).*

*As the gifts are received at the altar, the celebrant and congregation give thanks, saying:*

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord,

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP, p. 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.  
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.**

*The people kneel or stand as the prayers continue, concluding with:*

*Celebrant* By whom, and with 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,  
**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

BCP, p. 337

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

## The Agnus Dei

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.**

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*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.**

*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.

*All baptized Christians are invited to come forward and receive the Sacrament at the Lord's Table. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the Celebrant).*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*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.**

## **The Blessing**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Notes About Receiving Communion:**

In the Episcopal Church, all who have been baptized with water in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Communion, no matter in which Christian denomination you may have originally been baptized. You may receive Communion either standing or kneeling. If you do not want to receive Communion, you are welcome at the altar rail for a blessing or prayer by one of the clergy. To indicate you would like a blessing or prayer, simply cross your arms over your chest as you kneel or stand at the rail.

To receive the wafer, place one open hand over the other and the wafer will be placed in your palm. We also have gluten-free wafers for those who require one. To receive the wine, please help the chalice bearer guide the cup to your lips. If you prefer to intinct (dip the wafer in the wine), please hold the wafer in your hands until the chalice bearer comes to you. It is perfectly fine to receive only the bread (wafer). If you do not wish to receive the wine, please cross your arms over your chest or return to your seat after consuming your wafer.

The mission of the Episcopal Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We pursue this mission by praying and worshiping, proclaiming the Gospel, and promoting justice, peace, and love. We carry out this mission through the ministry of all our members— from the youngest to the oldest, and everyone in between.

### **Saint Richard's Clergy, Staff, and Leadership**

The Rev. Jerry Lyle, Deacon

Stephen Mueller, Sr. Warden – seniorwarden@saintrichards.org

Sara Burden-McClure, Director of Music - sara@saintrichards.org

Brent Saxon, Jr. Warden – juniorwarden@saintrichards.org

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Rickey Walker, Sexton - sexton@saintrichards.org

### **St. Richard's Online**

Website: [www.saintrichards.org](http://www.saintrichards.org)

Instagram: @saintrichardschurch

Facebook: [saintrichardsepiscopalchurch](https://www.facebook.com/saintrichardsepiscopalchurch)

YouTube: St. Richard's Live

Podcast: Take St. Richard's on the go! Check out our podcast, Day by Day with St. Richard's, available on all major platforms, where you can find sermon audio and other resources for spiritual growth.