

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

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 Jeremiah 31:7-14

For 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 labour, 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.

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

Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
 my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
 than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
 he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *
 from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, *
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Reading 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 towards 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, according to the working of his great power.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 our Rector Search Committee. Grant them wisdom, patience, and unity of spirit, that they may discern faithfully thy will for this parish and be sustained by hope and trust.

We pray also for the priest whom thou art calling to join us. Prepare their heart for this ministry, and prepare us to welcome them with joy and faithfulness.

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

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 give using the QR code located on the pew card, which allows you to give directly through Realm.*

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,
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

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

People **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

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St. Richard's Online

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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.