

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

*The Feast of The Holy Innocents*



*The Chapel of The Holy Innocents in Bethlehem)*

*The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents*  
*28 December, 2025 ~ 9:30 AM*

**Welcome!** In The Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. **BCP** means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

## **Prelude**

*Voluntary*

*Please use this time for quiet prayer and contemplation*

## **The Parish Notices**

# **THE WORD OF GOD**

## **Entrance Hymn #112**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

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

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

*Celebrant* 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. *All Amen.*

## **Song of Praise #96** (all sing vv. 1&4)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

## **The Collect of the Day:**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**

*Celebrant* We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **All Amen.**

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her  
children, because they are no more.  
Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work,  
says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
There is hope for your future, says the LORD:  
your children shall come back to their own country.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 124** (*Read in unison*)

**BCP, p. 781**

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

## The Epistle

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #247** *(Please stand)* *Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child*

COVENTRY CAROL

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-18

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

When the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and

remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** *(All are seated)*

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Peter De Franco**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP, p. 358**

**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: Form III

BCP, p. 387

*(The people may stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Leader* Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

*People* **That we all may be one.**

*Leader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;

*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

*Leader* In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of  
Canada. We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury-designate; Sean, our  
Presiding Bishop, Sally, our Bishop, Erin, our Newly Called Rector and  
Peter, our Supply Priest. We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

*Leader* For Colleen our Mayor, Philip our Governor, Mikie our Governor-elect and Donald our President. We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Leader* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

*Leader* We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially remembering all victims of climate change, and for the poor. We also remember all those mentioned in our Parish Prayer List, the sick, the shut-in, and the grieving; those serving in the military and other dangerous professions, and for our enemies, that all hearts may be turned to peace. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

*Leader* Give to the departed eternal rest.

*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Leader* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

*Leader* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*(The People may add their own petitions.)*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## **Confession**

**BCP, p. 360**

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.*

### **Absolution**

**BCP, p. 360**

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** (*All stand*)

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Offertory Hymn #115**

*What Child is This*

GREENSLEEVES

### **Presentation of the Gifts** (*All stand*)

*All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee*

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP, p. 367**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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 may stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant* 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,

*All* **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* 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 all your 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. *All: AMEN.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP, p. 364**

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**

*The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread. The congregation observes a time of silence.*

**Fraction Anthem: S-154** *(all sing) Christ Our Passover*

David Hurd

*(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)*

### **Postcommunion Prayer** *(Please stand)*

**BCP, p. 365**

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**

**Hymn #98**

*Unto Us A Boy is Born*

BURABUS

**Dismissal**

**BCP, p. 366**

**Postlude**

*Voluntary*

## Serving Today

**Crucifer** ~ John Wall   **Lector** ~ Leila Sullivan

**Ushers** ~ Mike DeCicco   **Chalice Bearer** ~ Leila Sullivan

## Parish Prayer List – December 28, 2025

**PLEASE NOTE: This is the last Sunday in December. All names will be removed from the prayer list unless notified otherwise. If you need to add or remove a name, please contact**

*Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by **Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**.*

Lara Sparks Deitz

Christian Balint

Pierro Family

Connie

Dcn. Judy

Rob Meyer

Pat

Rich Cashel

JoAnn King

Cindy Wood

Gia

Frank

Bill Bentley

Nellie Riley

Chris Mercer

Will Locovare

Bill O'Connell

Pat Strocchia

Devin Hone

Flood Family

Rose Federici

Don Deitz

Friends and Family of Pete White

Mary Ann Crewdson

Warren Lamon

Lovas Family

Joe

Lynne Weidmann

Tino

Kathy Rice

Charles Sullivan

Ellis Barbieri

Diane

Jeannine

Fran Iozzi

Dr. John

Mike Phillips

Katie Gillis

Ollie

Glenn Servetah

George Balch

Barbara

Kay DiCicco

Anna & Matteo Mannino

Priscilla Ruoff Harvey

Dennis

Ann White

Debbie & Joe Reising

Peg Appleget

Meg Neff

Melanie Harman

Jessie

Doug Hunter

Judy Hamilton

Ray M.

Phil

Johnny Johnson, Jr.

Scott

Adam Boulderstone

Frank, III

Ben Giannico

Mary K.

Barbara Wheeler

Rick Rosenbaum

Joe Verrone

Scotty Camarote

Family & Friends of TJ Patton

## **Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:**

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

**Birthdays:** Carol Hammond (12/29), Stokes B. Carrigan IV (01/04)

**WEEKLY CALENDAR December 29-January 2**

|            |  |                    |
|------------|--|--------------------|
| 29 – Mon   | <i>Parish Office Closed</i>                |                    |
|            | Morning Prayer (FB)                        | 9:00 AM            |
|            | Chair Yoga                                 | 9:15 AM-10:15 AM   |
| 30 – Tues  | <i>Parish Office Closed</i>                |                    |
| 31 – Wed   | <i>Parish Office Closed~NEW YEAR'S EVE</i> |                    |
|            | Tai Chi Class                              | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM |
| 01 – Thurs | <i>Parish Office Closed~HAPPY 2026!!</i>   |                    |
|            | “Clam-Diggers” AA Group                    | 7:30 PM            |
|            | Compline (FB)                              | 9:00 PM            |
| 02 – Fri   | <i>Parish Office Closed</i>                |                    |

A special thank you to Chris Burlaga for her assistance assembling Sunday bulletins all year and Jane Enos for stepping in recently as a back-up and helping throughout Christmas! Words cannot express how much your help is appreciated!!!! ~ Lisa

**The 2026 Pledge Envelopes are marked and in the Narthex for pick up.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Our Annual Meeting & Brunch *Sun. Jan. 11th after Service***

Please mark your calendars! See Pat if you want to help with Brunch.



**Donate your way.**

Give one time, anytime or  
set up a recurring donation.

**The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents**  
Pearl & Marine Streets, Beach Haven, NJ 08008