

# *The First Sunday After Christmas*



Sunday, December 29, 2024  
8:00 A.M. Eucharist, Rite One

## **CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

806 THOMPSON ROAD  
RICHMOND, TX  
[WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG](http://WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG)

**THE REV. RALPH B. MORGAN, RECTOR**  
**THE REV. NANCY WILKES, DEACON**

# THE WORD OF GOD

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 87 - Hark! the herald angels sing

1. *Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

**REFRAIN:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!*

2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!*

3. *Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!*

## WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

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

***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

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.**

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.

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

THE COLLECT OF THE LORD

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

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

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**THE PSALM**

**Psalm 147:13-21**

**Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.  
He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**SEQUENCE HYMN 109 - The first Nowell**

**1. *The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

**REFRAIN:**

***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

**2. *They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.***

**3. *And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.***

**4. *This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.***

**5. *Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.***

**6. *Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.***

**THE GOSPEL**

**John 1:1-18**

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

***Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.***

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.*

**SERMON - Fr. Ralph**

#### **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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Form III, BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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

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

***That your name may be glorified by all peoples.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; and Nancy, our Deacon.

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

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

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

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially \_\_\_\_\_;

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

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially \_\_\_\_\_;

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

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

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

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

*(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)*

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

***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.***

## ABSOLUTION

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.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

# *THE HOLY COMMUNION*

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN 82 - Of the Father's love begotten

- 1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!*
- 2. O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!*
- 3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!*
- 4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!*

## THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**



The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

***It is meet and right so to do.***

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. [*Proper Preface is added*]

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,***

S-130

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,***

***heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech

thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

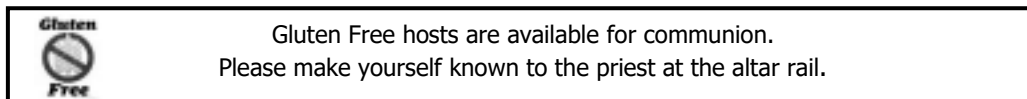
***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.***

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

These are 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.



*If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.*

#### **COMMUNION HYMN 115 - **What child is this** (Greensleeves)**

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| <p><b>1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,<br/>on Mary's lap is sleeping?<br/>Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,<br/>while shepherds watch are keeping?</b></p> <p><b>REFRAIN:<br/>This, this is Christ the King,<br/>whom shepherds guard and angels sing;<br/>haste, haste to bring him laud,<br/>the babe, the son of Mary.</b></p> | <p><b>2. Why lies he in such mean estate<br/>Where ox and ass are feeding?<br/>Good Christian, fear: for sinners here<br/>The silent Word is pleading.</b></p> <p><b>3. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,<br/>Come, peasant, king, to own him:<br/>The King of kings salvation brings,<br/>Let loving hearts enthrone him.</b></p> |
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## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

***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 peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

## RECESSIONAL HYMN 105 - God rest you merry gentlemen

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| <p>1. <b><i>God rest you merry, gentlemen,<br/>let nothing you dismay;<br/>remember Christ our Savior<br/>was born on Christmas Day,<br/>to save us all from Satan's power<br/>when we were gone astray.</i></b></p> <p><b>REFRAIN:</b><br/><b><i>O tidings of comfort and joy,<br/>comfort and joy;<br/>O tidings of comfort and joy!</i></b></p> <p>2. <b><i>From God our heavenly Father<br/>a blessed angel came<br/>and unto certain shepherds<br/>brought tidings of the same:<br/>how that in Bethlehem was born<br/>the Son of God by name.</i></b></p> | <p>3. <b><i>'Fear not, then,' said the angel,<br/>'Let nothing you affright;<br/>this day is born a Savior<br/>of a pure virgin bright,<br/>to free all those who trust in him<br/>from Satan's power and might.'</i></b></p> <p>4. <b><i>Now to the Lord sing praises,<br/>all you within this place,<br/>and with true love and charity<br/>each other now embrace;<br/>this holy tide of Christmas<br/>doth bring redeeming grace.</i></b></p> |
|---|---|

## THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



**Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers in 2025**  
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Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at [calvaryrichmond.org](http://calvaryrichmond.org) under **giving/altar flowers**  
The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

**Calvary Worship Service Times**  
8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service  
10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service  
5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

**Calvary Staff**

*The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector*  
*The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon*

*John Brun, Parish Administrator*  
*Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator*  
*William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister*  
*Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant*

*Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator*  
*Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director*  
*Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator*  
*Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader*  
*Jose Portillo, Campus Operations*

**IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**The Rev. Nancy Wilkes**  
713-818-6323  
[nwilkes@ces-richmond.org](mailto:nwilkes@ces-richmond.org)

or

**The Rev. Ralph Morgan**  
281-797-5246  
[rmorgan@ces-richmond.org](mailto:rmorgan@ces-richmond.org)

**CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

2024 Pledged: \$555,925  
2024 Given: \$523,273