

# Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

*Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome to Advent Episcopal Church. Our worship service follows the Book of Common Prayer and includes Holy Communion in which all may receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Hymn numbers preceded by the letter "H" are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. The hymn numbers preceded by the letter "W" are found in the blue hymnal Worship & Rejoice.*

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*Acknowledging the people of the land, the Hohokam and other indigenous people as the original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous people who pray for unity and peace together.*

Prelude

**Processional Hymn**                      H 109 (vs. 1, 5-6)

*Celebrant*            Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**All**                    **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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. **Amen.**

**All**                    **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 sins 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.**

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### The First Lesson    Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
All                Thanks be to God

### Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*8am spoken, 10am sung*)

- <sup>1</sup> Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
<sup>2</sup> That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;  
<sup>3</sup> That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

- <sup>11</sup> All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- <sup>13</sup> He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## **The Second Lesson    Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
All                **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Hymn**            H 277

Deacon            The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
People            **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**Gospel**            **Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

Deacon        The Gospel of the Lord.  
People        **Praise to you, Lord Christ**  
Sermon        The Rev. Dr. Beverley Rader

### **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father 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 and 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 EPIPHANY PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader        O Christ, your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us to shine our light upon the world that all people may know the love of Jesus. Lord of glory,

People        **Hear our prayer.**

Leader        O Christ, by your baptism you opened the door of new life into the Church. Make us servants of your Gospel, and we pray especially for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, and the clergy of our parish. Lord of glory,

People        **Hear our prayer.**

Leader        O Christ, you were a servant to us and called us to serve one another. Give us grace that we may be faithful and courageous Christians in the world, and we pray especially for the President of the United States, the Governor of Arizona, and all First Nations tribal leaders. Lord of glory,

People        **Hear our prayer.**

Leader        You ministered to the poor, the weak and the suffering. Comfort the sick, console the sorrowful, and raise the hearts of those who are burdened by any grief or trouble. Lord of glory,

People        **Hear our prayer.**

Leader O Christ, you are the resurrection and the life. We pray for all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Lord of glory,  
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord God, the bright splendor whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, in 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon 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.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
All **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music

All **Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, brothers and sisters are we,  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

## Thanksgiving for the 2026 Pledges

*With the pledges presented on the altar, the Celebrant prays:*

Gracious God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: We thank you for these 2026 pledges for the work of your Church. Give us grateful hearts and helping hands to continue your good work in the world.

Grant us grace that we may honor you with our time, talent and treasure, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

*BCP 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.**

*The Celebrant proceeds:*

It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

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

*S130*

*The Celebrant continues:*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in your 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,

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

*The Celebrant continues:*

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 the saints, we may enter into 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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All** **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

*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.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. The wine will be offered by intinction, which means that you may dip the wafer into the small cup offered by the Lay Assistant. Please do not put your fingers into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, just receive the wafer and return to your seat. The Church teaches that you receive the full Christ in either the bread or wine. There is no requirement to receive both. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

Communion Hymn H 497

*Celebrant* The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.  
**Communicant** **Amen.**

*Deacon* The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.  
**Communicant** **Amen.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
**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 the 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.**

## THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn H 128

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia.

Dismissal Response: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia**

Postlude