

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
The First Sunday of Christmas  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday, December 29, 2024  
11:00am

*Welcome to Saint Mary's! We are glad you are joining us today for either in person or online worship. For more information about Saint Mary's, please see our website at [www.stmaryshighpoint.org](http://www.stmaryshighpoint.org) or check out our [Facebook Page](#).*

The liturgy begins on page 355 in The Book of Common Prayer.

**Voluntary** Noël from *Esquisses Byzantines*

*Henri Mulet*

## The Word of God

*All stand and sing*

**Hymn 86** O Savior of our fallen race

*The Celebrant says*

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

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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.**

## *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

*William Mathias, S-278*

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-  
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**The Collect of the Day**

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*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons** *All are seated.*

**A reading from the book of 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.

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

## Psalm 147

## *Laudate Dominum*



- 13 Worship the | LORD, • O Je- | rusalem; \*  
    -- | praise your | God, O | Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the | bars of • your | gates; \*  
    he has | blessed your | children • with- | in you.
- 15 He has established | peace on • your | borders; \*  
    he satisfies you | with the | finest | wheat.
- 16 He sends out his com- | mand • 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 a- | gainst his | cold?

### *Second half of the chant*

- 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. | Halle- | lujah!

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the 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.

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

**Hymn 93**        Angels, from the realms of glory

## The Gospel

John 1:1-18

*Gospeller*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*            **Glory to you, 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.

*Gospeller*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All stand and say together*

**The Nicene Creed**

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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.

**Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for The Episcopal Church, the diocese of Botswana, and our companion diocese of Costa Rica most especially Santa Maria Siquierres.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially Ginny, Katherine, Em, Phil, Kim, Michael, Jennifer, Land, Helen, Linda, all those on our Parish prayer list, all those on the Daughters of the King prayer list, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

## **Confession of Sin**

**p. 360**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*Standing, the Celebrant says*

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.*

**p. 360**

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

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Communion**

# Offertory

Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, arr. David Willcocks

*The choirs sing stanzas 1 through 5. Please stand and join in singing stanza 6.*

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun.  
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Savior;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

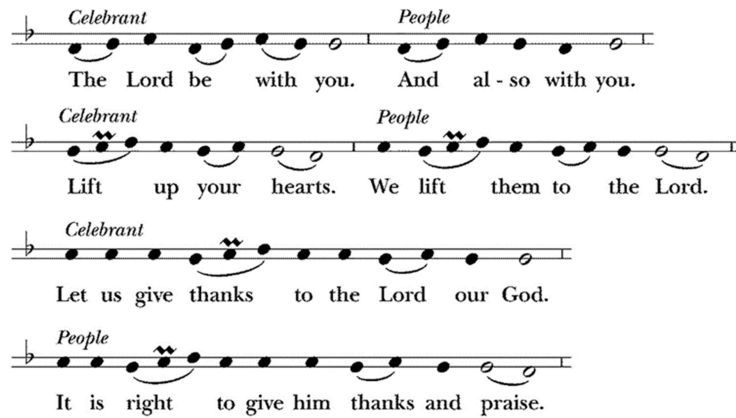
4 Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his prais - es; An - gels and Arch - an - gels, sing!  
Where-so - e'er ye be, ye faith - ful, let your joy - ous an - thems ring,  
Ev - 'ry tongue his name con - fess - ing, Count-less voi - ces  
an - swer - ing, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

~ Aurelius Prudentius  
tr. Roby Furley Davis

# The Great Thanksgiving

## *Eucharistic Prayer B*

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*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

### *The Celebrant continues*

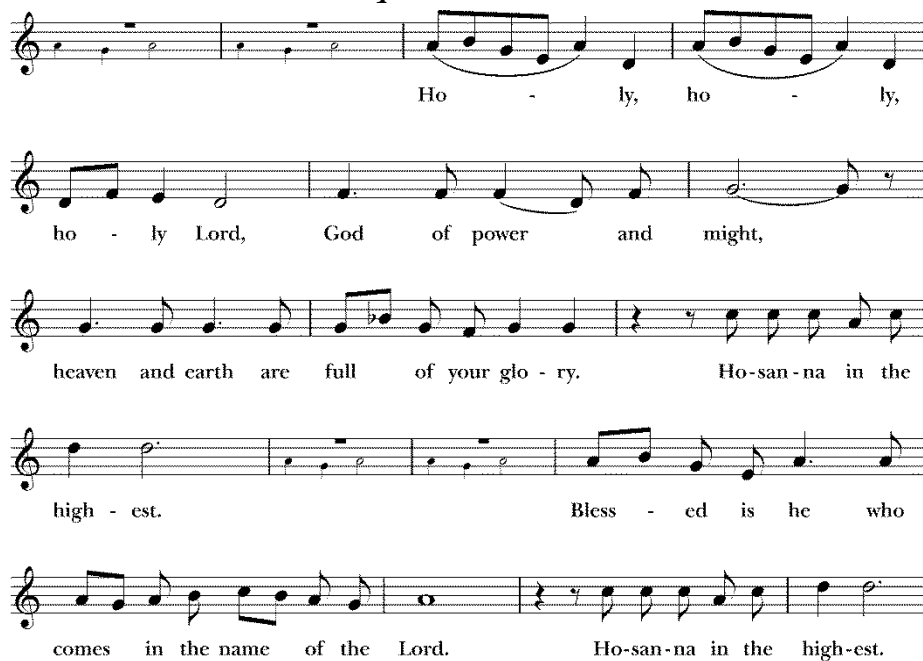
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;

### *The Celebrant prays the appointed Proper Preface.*

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:

## *Sanctus & Benedictus qui venit*

*William Mathias, S-128*



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.



*Then the Celebrant continues*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

*Celebrant and People*

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -  
 rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and 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 ev - -er. **A--MEN.**

*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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Christ our Passover*

*David Hurd, S-154*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The Celebrant says*

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.

**Hymn 324** Let all mortal flesh keep silence

*After Communion, all stand and the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant blesses the people and then they are dismissed, responding*

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 100** Joy to the world

**Voluntary** Paean on *Divinium mysterium*

*John Cook*

## Participants in the Liturgy

*Celebrant*

The Rev'd Carroll Travis

*Preacher*

The Rev'd Foster Mays

*Lector*

John Haworth

*Verger*

Kathy Conrad

*Chalicers*

Jean Almos

*Acolytes*

Jonathan Richardson, Aaron Sparks, Ford Ramsay, Whit Ramsay

*Organist & Choirmaster*

Charles Hogan

### Acknowledgements

Text for the liturgy from *The Book of Common Prayer*, New York: Church Publishing, 1979, 231, 355-365, 388-389; Search committee prayer: *Prayers for Pastor & People*, Compiled and edited by Carl G. Carozzi, New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1984, 139. Used with permission. The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Originated in riteplanning.com, © 2020 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. The following music is reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-716676. All rights reserved. Sanctus S-128, Music by William Mathias, © Oxford University Press.

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**Herb Goins – Senior Warden**  
**Jason Johnson – Clerk**  
**Emily Fisher**  
**Sally Bulla**  
**Candice Greig**  
**Will Moore**  
**Patrick Simcox**

**Vestry 2024**  
**John Wall – Junior Warden**  
**Stephen Greig – Treasurer**  
**Audrey Congdon Harris**  
**Steve Bingham**  
**Hodge Cole**  
**Lenora Sparks**  
**Mark Penley**

**Herb Goins – Senior Warden**  
**Jason Johnson**  
**Candice Greig**  
**Will Moore**  
**Patrick Simcox**  
**Ellen Walsh**  
**Nancy Amos - Clerk**

**Incoming Vestry 2025**  
**Tim Yates**  
**Steve Bingham**  
**Hodge Cole**  
**Lenora Sparks**  
**Mark Penley**  
**Amanda Gane**

***Keeping in Prayer this Week:*** We pray for those whose needs are closely linked with ours and for those who suffer from any sickness, grief or distress, also remembering and praying for those on our parish prayer list, including Helen Congdon, Linda Nitz, Emily Finch Johnson, Anne Miressi, Trish, Thea Oglesby, Steve, Jerri Phillips, Elizabeth White, Richard Glover, Rick and Margaret Lewis, Frankie Gurganus, Nancy Jenkins, Kathy, Diane Kearns, Joan Cardwell, Bill Fenn, Cheryl Warren, Debbie Ewing, Barry, Helen Idol, Jo Stille, Pat Hayes, Gloria, Clara Blythe, Susan Hayne, Sam Hawley, Robert Eamon Kelly, David Stewart, Dick Shaler, Jane Gill-Shaler, Denni Mikola, Shirley, Greg Denison, Ray, Robert Taylor, Michelle Maynard, Hannah, Linda Focarelli, Carter, Tom Peterson, Loyd, Mike Hennen, Connie Strader, Ginny Long, Katherine Anne Marsh, Em, Phil Williams, Kim Williams, Michael, Jennifer Boggs, Land Hurley.

***About St Mary's Prayer List:*** St Mary's maintains a published prayer list, which is added to the service leaflet and to the e-news each week. To add someone, please secure permission to use either the first and/or last names from the person to be added, and then contact Denise Story at 336.886.4756 or by email at [admin@stmarysepisc.org](mailto:admin@stmarysepisc.org). Denise needs your name and contact information so we can get pastoral updates periodically. Individuals will be updated at the end of the month unless the request is renewed, which you are welcome to do at any time.

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