

WELCOME TO SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

4:30 PM

The Rev. Daryl T. Hay, Rector
Dr. Linda Patterson, Director of Music
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Rev. Benjamin Sánchez, Church Planter
The Rev. Karl Griswold-Kuhn, Guest Celebrant
The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
4:30 PM

The Word of God

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Saint Andrew's Handbell Choir
Christmas Bells, The First Noel, Joy to the World

OPENING HYMN 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful
Children are invited to come to the back of the church to carry in the nativity figures.

OPENING ACCLAMATION
The people standing, the Celebrant says
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**


COLLECT FOR PURITY
The Celebrant may say

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.**

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE
The following is sung, all standing

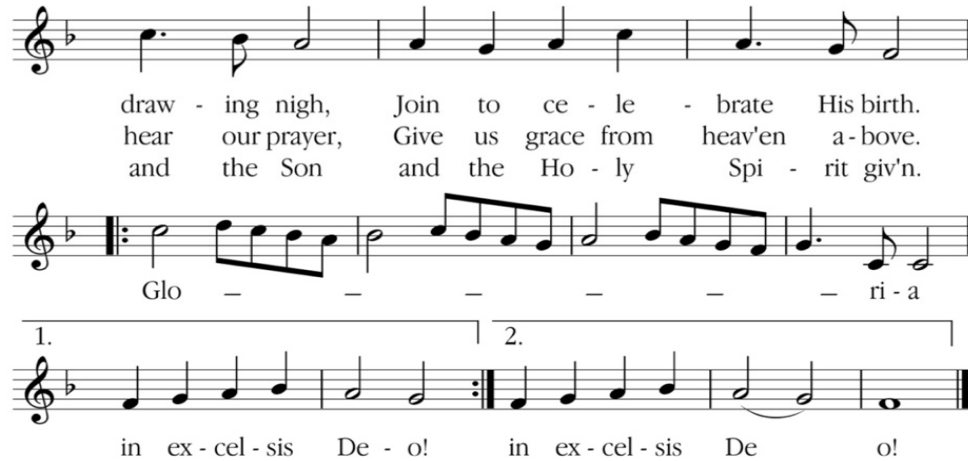
The St. James Christmas Service

Joyously



Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de-clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,

To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
 all day and all night
 they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
 take no rest,
 and give him no rest
 until he establishes Jerusalem
 and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

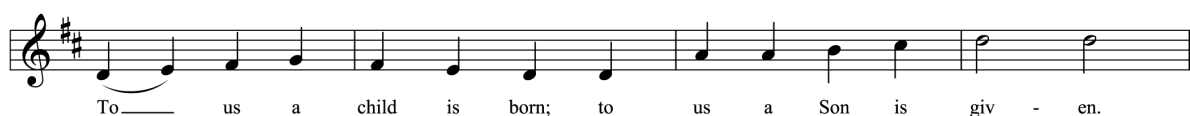
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
 and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
 to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine
 for which you have labored;
 but those who garner it shall eat it
 and praise the LORD,
 and those who gather it shall drink it
 in my holy courts.
 Go through, go through the gates,
 prepare the way for the people;
 build up, build up the highway,
 clear it of stones,
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.
 The LORD has proclaimed
 to the end of the earth:
 Say to daughter Zion,
 "See, your salvation comes;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him."
 They shall be called, "The Holy People,
 The Redeemed of the LORD";
 and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
 A City Not Forsaken."

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

PSALM 97
Remain seated.



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated.
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- 1 The LORD is King;
 let the earth rejoice; *
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
 righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne. *Antiphon*
- 3 A fire goes before him *
 and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
 the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.

Antiphon

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.

9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

Antiphon

10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *

Antiphon

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 87 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Children are invited to follow the Processional Cross to Children's Chapel.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the

Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Daryl T. Hay

THE CREED

All stand.

**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

The people kneel.

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

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.**

The Priest stands and 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.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

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

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. Boughton

*The holly and the ivy, now both are full well grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears
the crown.*

Refrain: *Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour. **Refrain***

*The holly bears a berry as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to do us sinners good. **Refrain***

*The holly bears a prickly, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to do us sinners good. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. **Refrain***

DOXOLOGY

Hymn 380, verse 3

The people stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Celebrant says

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Here a proper preface is said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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 Holy, holy, holy
Celebrant and People

The St. James Christmas Service





The people kneel.

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

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

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 Mary, Joseph, Andrew 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 ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

The St. James Christmas Service



O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly
 Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have
 mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the
 son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy
 giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.
 Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the
 son of Ma - ry.

INVITATION

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Children's Chapel Singers: "Away in a Manger"

Duet from *Messiah*: "He Shall Feed His Flock"

Courtney Nagel, Mezzo-Soprano and Patty Creel, Soprano

HYMN 89 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

HYMN 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, 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.**

Acolytes will light candles for those seated at the aisle; each person then lights the candle of the person next to them. Please keep your candles lit until the lights come back up.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN 111 Silent Night

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 100 Joy to the World!

Sung by all, standing

DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

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*The flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Kurt Elmendorf
by Ernest Elmendorf.*

NOTES ABOUT THE MUSIC: Tonight's music includes some less well-known Christmas Carols. "The Holly and the Ivy" is a traditional English Carol, with a melody first collected in 1911. The music that the choir sings from tonight was copyrighted and published in 1920 and has been in our music files for many years. Just as we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our Pilcher pipe organ, it is great to also sing some of the traditional favorites from 1925, such as this anthem. The text uses imagery of the holly and the ivy to illustrate both Christmas and Easter.

Another traditional carol is "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella," which is the basis for our Closing Voluntary tonight. It is a French carol from Provence, which describes two shepherdesses bringing a torch to the manger in Bethlehem.

COVER ART: Putman, Emily. Christmas Eve (2024). Watercolor.

LOOKING AHEAD

To receive "The Line," our weekly e-newsletter, please email: office@standrewsbcs.org

Morning Prayer is offered Tuesday through Friday at 8 AM in the church.

Evening Prayer is offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 5 PM in the church.

The 10:15 AM Sunday service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube as well as found on our website: www.standrewsbcs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 Christmas Eve Services with the Holy Eucharist, 4:30 PM & 8 PM

December 25 Christmas Day Service with the Holy Eucharist, 11 AM

December 25-26 Church Office Closed

December 28 Coffee & Conversation, 9:15 AM
Guest Preacher, The Rev. Karl Griswold-Kuhn

December 31 Snacks & Game Night, 9 PM
Service for New Year's Eve with the Holy Eucharist, 11:15 PM

January 1 Church Office Closed

January 4 Christmas Lessons & Carols, 10:15 AM

January 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the Holy Eucharist,
12:15 PM

January 11	The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:15 AM <i>If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Church Office</i>
January 18	Fork & Forté Luncheon Group, 11:30 AM Plass Recital Series: Alexander Busby, 2 PM
January 19	Church Office Closed in observance of MLK Jr. Day
January 20	Bach's Lunch
January 21	Public Service of Healing with the Holy Eucharist, 5:30 PM Rector's Book Club, 6 PM
January 25	Annual Parish Meeting, 9:15 AM

WEEKLY/MONTHLY MINISTRIES

Sunday – The Holy Eucharist: 8 and 10:15 AM | Faith Formation, 9:15 AM

Monday – Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Study, 6 PM (offsite)

Tuesday – Good Grief Group, 9:30 AM | Youth Café Conversations, 6 PM (offsite)

Wednesday – Choir Practice, 3 & 7 PM | Handbell Rehearsal, time varies (contact Linda for more details) | 20-30 Vision, 6 PM

Thursday – Men's Breakfast, 7 AM | Ladies Breakfast, 8:30 AM (offsite) | Card Committee (3rd Thursday of the month)

Friday – Music Play with Ms. Patty, 9:30 AM

Saturday – DOK, 9 AM (2nd Saturday of the month) | Flower Guild: Flower Arranging, 10 AM | Brazos Church Pantry Volunteer Day (3rd and 4th Saturday of the month)



Saint Andrew's
Episcopal Church
Bryan, Texas

Parish Contact Information

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Sexton – Jeff Waskom

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**Altar Flower Dedications
Sign-Up**

