

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 5, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II



All who heard him
were amazed ...

Our Mission
“Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others”

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

CLH 12

Verse 1

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Verse 2

Praise Him for His grace and favor
to our forebears in distress;
praise Him still the same as ever.
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Verse 3

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hand He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Verse 5

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*standing*)

Celebrant Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people. *[Isaiah 52:9]*

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

SONG OF PRAISE

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

CLH 113

Verse 1

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us
from all sin within us;
glorify the Holy Child!

Verse 2

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing,
and all praises bringing,
may Thy love with us abide!

Verse 3

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
peace revealing Christmastide!
Darkness disappeareth,
God's own Light now neareth,
peace and joy to all betide!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
People **Thanks be to God**

Silence-What indeed is God saying?

PSALM 84 (*Read Responsively*)

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

**4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**6 They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**8 Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

**12 O LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence-What indeed is God saying?

SEQUENCE HYMN

Our Father, by Whose Name

Hymn 587

Verse 1

Our Father, by whose Name
all fatherhood is known,
who dost in love proclaim
each family thine own,
bless thou all parents, guarding well,
with constant love as sentinel,
the homes in which thy people dwell.

Verse 2

O Christ, thyself a child
within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled,
thou didst to manhood come;
our children bless, in every place,
that they may all behold thy face,
and knowing thee may grow in grace.

Verse 3

O Spirit, who dost bind
our hearts in unity,
who teachest us to find
the love from self set free,
in all our hearts such love increase,
that every home, by this release,
may be the dwelling place of peace.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! The Word became flesh and lived and we have seen his glory.

People Alleluia!

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he

went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON *(Please be seated)*

Father Allen Hill

Silence

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

BCP 358

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Let us bring before God the needs of the world.

Wonderful counsellor, give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.
Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Prince of peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.
Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, provide for those who lack the basic necessities of food and shelter, for the poor and oppressed, for the unemployed and destitute, and for all who are in need.
Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, care for all who are in physical pain or distress, minister to the aged and infirm, and bring healing to all who are sick and suffering, especially Celeste, Walter, Mae, Cynthia, Lee & Bonnie, Herb & Rhonda, Russell, Marcie, Erin, Sterling, Marcie, Jan, Jackie, Faye, Roberta, Maria, Anita, Valerie, Suzy, Barbara, Mason, Ellen, Elizabeth, Kayleigh, Essie, and Virginia.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Jesus, bring comfort to all who are in mourning or grief; give hope to all who suffer from sadness or depression; and bring peace to all who struggle with anxiety and fear.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Jesus, hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom, especially those whom we love.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Almighty God, hear our prayer and fulfil your purposes in us, as you accomplished your will in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

A brief silence is kept. The Celebrant then says the concluding Collect:

Celebrant

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN (*The people kneel, as able*)

BCP 360

THE PEACE (*Standing*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

“The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”[*John 6:33*]

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY HYMN***How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*****Hymn 517****Verse 1**

How lovely is thy dwelling place,
 O Lord of hosts, to me!
 My thirsty soul desires and longs
 within thy courts to be;
 my very heart and flesh cry out,
 O living God, for thee.

Verse 2

Beside thine altars, gracious Lord,
 the swallows find a nest;
 how happy they who dwell with thee
 and praise thee without rest,
 and happy they whose hearts are set
 upon the pilgrim's quest.

Verse 3

They who go through the desert vale
 will find it filled with springs,
 and they shall climb from height to height
 till Zion's temple rings
 with praise to thee, in glory throned,
 Lord God, great King of kings.

Verse 4

One day within thy courts excels
 a thousand spent away;
 how happy they who keep thy laws
 nor from thy precepts stray,
 for thou shalt surely bless all those
 who live the words they pray.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B** *(Standing)***BCP 367****DOXOLOGY** *(Sung)*

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.
 Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**BCP 367****Proper Preface**

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

SANCTUS *(All Sing)*

S-129

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

S-161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All baptized Christian believers are invited to receive Holy Communion. All others are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive this option, please cross your arms over your chest in front of the priest.

COMMUNION SONGS

Fairest Lord Jesus

CLH 53

Verse 1

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

Verse 2

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Verse 3

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Verse 4

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be Thine!

Children of the Heavenly Father

CLH 379

Verse 1

Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

Verse 3

Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord His children sever;
unto them His grace He showeth,
and their sorrows all He knoweth.

Verse 2

God His own doth tend and nourish;
in His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
in His mighty arms He bears them.

Verse 4

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All stand*)

BCP 366

(Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.)

THE BLESSING†

Celebrant

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL

The Great Creator of the Worlds

Hymn 489

Verse 1

The great Creator of the worlds,
the sovereign God of heaven,
his holy and immortal truth
to all on earth hath given.

Verse 3

He sent him not in wrath and power,
but grace and peace to bring;
in kindness, as a king might send
his son, himself a king.

Verse 2

He sent no angel of his host
to bear this mighty word,
but him through whom the worlds were made,
the everlasting Lord.

Verse 4

He sent him down as sending God;
in flesh to us he came;
as one with us he dwelt with us,
and bore a human name.

Continued →

Verse 5

He came as Savior to his own,
the way of love he trod;
he came to win us by good will,
for force is not of God.

Verse 6

Not to oppress, but summon all
their truest life to find,
in love God sent his Son to save,
not to condemn mankind.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All **Thanks be to God.**



*WE WELCOME ALL to our services today.
Please contact the church office if we may assist you.
We would love to hear from you.*



Pray for our sick, especially Celeste Rosenau, Walter, Mae, Cynthia Jester, Lee & Bonnie McHugh, Herb & Rhonda Laing, Russell, Marcie, Erin, Sterling Henderson, Marcie, Jan Calvin, Jackie Montgomery, Faye, Roberta Boyer, Maria Morales, Anita Davis, Valerie, Suzy Young, Barbara Sepielli, Mason Salsgiver, Ellen Strouth, Kayleigh, Essie, Elizabeth, and Virginia.

Pray for all who have died.

Pray for all who serve in the military, especially Hayden Livingston, Mathew, and Parry Alexander Thomas.

Pray for our companion churches in Cuba, Saint Michael's and All Angels in Ceballos and St. James the Apostle in Baraguá; and their priests, Mtr. Haydée Lugo Marrero and Fr. Roberto Faya Amaro.

Pray for our school; for Peter, Head of School; for Amy, Head of Middle School; for Brenda, Head of Lower School; for Michelle, Director of Preschool; and especially for Natasha Bothwell and Amy Vernon.

Pray for those celebrating birthdays, especially Paisleigh Hammon, Fred Kinch, and Nancy Tankersley.

Pray for those celebrating anniversaries.

*The policy for Prayers of the People is to list a person for one month.
Please call or email the office if extended prayers are needed.
Prayers can be requested by contacting the church office with the information.*

Happenings at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

TODAY

JANUARY 5

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9 a.m. Buck Breakfast
9 a.m. Spiritual Journey
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday School

*The nursery is
open 9-12 on Sunday.*

THIS WEEK

Monday, January 6

Epiphany Eucharist, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, January 7

Morning Prayer, 9 am (FB)
Daisy Troop Meeting, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 8

Morning Prayer, 9 am
Westminster Oaks Service, 3 pm
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 5:30 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 pm

Thursday, January 9

Morning Prayer, 9 am (FB)
Clericus, 12:30 pm
DOK, 5 pm

Friday, January 3

Saturday, January 4

Food Pantry, 9 am

I publish the Banns of Marriage between Bernard Eugene (Butch) Greer of Deland, FL and Catherine (Cathy) Lucille Moon of Tallahassee, FL. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the third time of asking.



It's that time of year again, time to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion in 2025 by sponsoring the altar flowers for that special day.

The sign-up chart is in the narthex, on the table near the coffee bar. You will be contacted as to how you want your dedication to read. Suggested donation is \$50, payable by check ("Altar flowers mm/dd/yy" in the memo line).

For more information, contact flower guild chair, Carolyn DiSalvo, at 850-322-3365.

The Epiphany is one of the Principal Feasts of our Christian Year when we remember the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus. It is always celebrated on January 6th, which will fall on a Monday this year. We will celebrate with three special events:

- Holy Eucharist at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary
- Epiphany Youth Party at 5:30 PM in the Parish Hall
- Epiphany-themed desserts in the narthex following the service.

Please join us on this special Feast Day!

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector
The Reverend Jim May, Assisting Priest
The Reverend Deacon Joe Scheff, Deacon
Dr. Melanie Salsgiver, Seminarian



VESTRY

Rick Wagner, Senior Warden
Robert Efthim, Junior Warden
Amy Johnson
Susan Robinson
Jenna Brown
Corinne Johnston
Bill Reineking
Andy Granger, Treasurer
Patricia Trom, Clerk

Contact information for Father Allen Hill - rev.allenhill@hc-ec.org

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Office Hours: Mon.-Thu. 9:00-5:00, Fri. 9:00-Noon
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