

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

ST. JOHN
THE DIVINE

10:30 am The Holy Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist

The Very Reverend Winnie Varghese, *Celebrant*

The Reverend Deacon Kenton J. Curtis, *Deacon*

The Reverend Canon Steven Lee, *Preacher*

The Cathedral Choir

Please note: Photography and video recording may be in process while you are at the Cathedral. Entry into the facility signifies your release and consent to the possibility that your image may be used by the Cathedral for promotional purposes.

Opening Voluntary

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen, Op. 122, No. 8 Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

Hymn in Procession

Sung by All, standing as able.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bi - ding, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions beam a - far:
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with you is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Refrain

come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.

Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Welcome

The Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Gloria



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us: you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, 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.

Music: William Mathias (1934–1992)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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.

People Amen.

The People are seated.

A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

IWILL 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 beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (61:10–62:3)

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:13–21*Sung by the Choir.**Laudate Dominum*

Jerusalem will worship you, O God,
 and Zion will praise your name.
 For you have strengthened the bars of our gates
 and have blest our children within them.
 You have established peace on our borders
 and satisfied us with the finest wheat.
 You send out your command to the earth,
 and your word runs very swiftly.
 You give snow like wool
 and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.
 You scatter your hail like bread crumbs;
 who can stand against your cold?
 You send forth your word and melt them;
 you blow with the wind, and the waters flow.
 You declare your word to Jacob,
 your statutes and judgments to Israel.
 You have not done so to any other nation;
 to them you have not revealed your judgments. Alleluia!

Chant: Francis Jackson (1917–2022)

Modal Alleluia*Sung by the Choir, then by All.*

Music: Daniel Ficarra (b. 1996)

A Reading From the Holy Gospel According to John

Deacon The ✠ Holy Gospel of our Savior 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 overtake 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 the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (1:1-18)

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Steven Lee
Vicar

The Nicene Creed

Said by All.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
and glorified,
who 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

In the silence following each petition, please offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.

<i>Deacon</i>	In the joy and wonder of Christ's birth, let us pray for the Church and for the world God loves.	<i>Intercessor</i>	For our neighbors and friends; for those who are ill or struggling in any way; and for all who have asked for our prayers. In this quiet moment, we lift their names before God.
<i>Intercessor</i>	For the Church throughout the world: that, rejoicing in the gift of Christ among us, we may share his light with kindness and humility, and reflect God's love in all that we do.	<i>Intercessor</i>	For those who have died, and for all who rest in God's peace, that light perpetual may shine upon them.
<i>Intercessor</i>	For all who lead in our city, our nation, and among the nations: that they may be guided by wisdom and compassion, seeking peace, justice, and the well-being of all.	<i>Celebrant</i>	Gracious God, whose Word became flesh and dwelt among us, receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken. Abide with us, that we may abide in you, and shine with the light of your love.
<i>Intercessor</i>	For all who find this season difficult; for those who feel unseen or unheard; for the grieving, the lonely, the displaced, and all who long for light in the midst of darkness, that they may know the nearness of Emmanuel, God-with-us.	<i>People</i>	Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

After exchanging greetings, the People are seated.

Greeting



A collection is taken. The People may place their offerings in the basket as it is passed or use the QR code.

Offertory Anthem

Sung by the Choir.

Verbum Caro Factum Est

H.L. Hassler (1564–1612)

VERBUM caro factum est,
et habitavit in nobis,
et vidimus gloriam ejus,
gloriam quasi unigeniti a Patre,
plenum gratiæ et veritatis.

*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.*

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. *People:* And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glo - ry to you for - ev - er and ev - er.

At your command all things came to be:
shining light and enfolding dark;
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were cre - a - ted and have their be - ing.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill.
You made us the stewards of your creation.
But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust;
and we turned against one another.

Have mer - cy, Lord, for we are sin - ners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return.
Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law.
And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word,
born of your servant Mary,
to fulfill your Law,
opening for us the way of freedom and peace.



And therefore we praise you,
 joining with the heavenly chorus,
 with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
 and with all those in every generation
 who have looked to you in hope,
 to proclaim with them your glory,
 in their unending hymn:

All:
 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
Choir:
 san-na in the high-est. Blest is the one who comes in the
All:
 name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread,
 said the blessing,
 broke the bread,
 and gave it to his friends, and said,
 "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the wine,
 gave thanks, and said,
 "Drink this, all of you:
 This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption
 and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We cel - e-brate his death and res - sur - rec - tion, as
we a - wait the day of his com - ing.

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and made a new people by water and the Spirit,
now bring before you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit
to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Sanctify us also,
and let the grace of this Holy Communion
make us one body, one spirit in Christ,
that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Ris-en Lord, be known to us in the break-ing of the Bread.

God of our ancestors;
Redeemer and Mother of Israel;
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Open our eyes
to see your hand at work in the world about us.
Deliver us from the presumption
of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength;
for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God,
through Jesus Christ our great High Priest,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
your Church gives honor, glory, and worship,
from generation to generation.

A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: David Hurd

The Invitation

The Celebrant says

THIS is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus
Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and
who want to love God more.

So come:

You who have much faith and you who have little, You who
have been here often and you who have not been for a long
time, You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed
here.

The Communion

You are welcome to receive Communion. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please inform an usher and we will bring Communion to your seat.

Communion Anthem

Sung by the Choir.

While Mary Slept

Helena Paish (b. 2002)

THE Child-Christ watched sweet Mary's face
the while she slept;
And for the woe that must claim his place
the Child-Christ wept:
And on her breast laid kisses four as a cross is made
To heal those wounds which forever more
should be on her laid.
And his little feet in her bosom pressed,

Where her soft hair trailed,
To comfort her with remembrance blessed
When his feet were nailed:
And laid his face on your face in sleep to prevent the tears,
When the crown of thorns with his blood should weep in
the coming years.

Alice Archer Sewell (1870–1955)

Post Communion Prayer

All stand, as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our
Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest blesses the People

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.

People 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.

People Amen.

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

People Amen.

AND the blessing of God, the peace of Christ, and the
outpouring the Spirit, be upon you and remain with
you for ever.

People Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn in Procession

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light. _____
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth. _____
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. _____

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901–1967)

Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

Closing Voluntary

Noël X in G Major, Op. 2, No. 10

Louis-Claude Daquin

(1694–1772)

Upcoming Congregation Events

January 2026

Youth Confirmation Class

Launching in the New Year for students in grades 7–12. Led by Andrea Dedmon, formerly Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Contact Andrea for details.

Coming Soon

Pastoral Care Team

Led by Deacon Kent Curtis, this team of experienced and compassionate healers and listeners will strengthen the ways we accompany one another through illness, loss, transition, and joy.

Welcome Team (Usher Guild)

We are expanding and renewing our Welcome Team—an evolution of the Cathedral’s usher guild—to strengthen hospitality on Sunday mornings and at major Cathedral services. Leadership and training opportunities will be shared soon.

Congregation Prayer List

To add a name to the Cathedral’s prayer list, please email pastoralcare@stjohndivine.org.

Names received by Sunday will appear in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

Sunday, December 28

We hold in our hearts and lift up in prayer the following members of our community:

In Grief, Need, and Thanksgiving: Michael Kavanaugh, Aiden Rosa, Nancy Kavanaugh, Jack, Mark Allen, Maria Lluisa, Jim Bills, Robert Dey, Carolyn Dawn Flynn, Hong Geun Byun, Sung Hyun Kim, Candance and her daughter, Bruce Piche and family, Melba S. Nixon, Sharon Grenier Coles, Bruce McIntyre, Linda Fauco, Pattie Mongelia, Joshua Muldavin, Cedric and Remy Armstrong, Raju Jagadeesan, John Cheeseman, Marisol Tineo, Braden P. Uppinghouse, Horace Felix.

For the Repose of Souls: Laurent Edmund Giroux, The Rev. Frank Alagna, Judi McIntyre, Joseph Mongelia, Rosalie Rodway, Kazuyuki Endo, Brent Columbus Irwin, Judy Papachristou, Barbara Darlington, Sam Richardson, Gary Carr, Nelson Otero.

Worship Schedule

Monday – Saturday • 8:30am | **Online**

Morning Prayer

Monday – Friday • 12:15pm | **Chapel of St. Ambrose**

Midday Eucharist

Monday – Saturday • 5:30pm | **Online**

Evening Prayer

Sunday

10:30am | **The Crossing** – Holy Eucharist

4pm | **The Great Choir** – Choral Evensong

Voices from the Cathedral

The preaching of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine is now with you wherever you go. Our Sunday morning sermons are available on all major podcast platforms, including Spotify and Apple. Search *Voices from the Cathedral* and subscribe today.

Ways to Get Involved

Congregation of Saint Saviour

Formed in 1992, the Congregation of Saint Saviour is the Episcopal congregation of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, welcoming members from near and far who call the Cathedral their spiritual home. Learn more at www.saintsaviour.org.

Young Adults of Saint Saviour (YASS)

Young Adults of Saint Saviour are parishioners in their 20s & 30s who meet regularly for spiritual reflection, service projects, and social events.

Community at the Crossing

The Community at the Crossing is an ecumenical program for spiritual formation housed at the Cathedral. Members spend a year in prayer and discernment, service and mission, biblical and theological formation, and intentional community.

Community Good Episcopal Federal Credit Union

Rooted in the Episcopal Diocese of New York and located at the Cathedral, Community Good offers fair, affordable financial services. We're more than a bank. We're on a mission to bring economic justice, dignity, and hope to our communities. Join us. For more information, visit www.communitygoodfcu.org.

Today at the Cathedral

Sunday, December 28

Choral Evensong

4pm | Great Choir

The Cathedral Choir sings music of Gerre Hancock, Healey Willan, and H.L. Hassler.

Upcoming Cathedral Events

Please visit www.stjohndivine.org for more details.

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Concert for Peace

7pm | Nave • *Limited Ticket Availability*

Tuesday, January 20

Organ Recital: The Juilliard School Organ Department
7:30pm | Nave

Saturday, January 24

Person Place Thing: with Randy Cohen
3pm | Great Choir • *Included with Admission*

Tuesday, January 27

Organ Recital: David Briggs
7:30pm | Nave

Saturday, January 31

Chorister Festival Evensong
4pm | Nave

Sunday, February 1

Post Evensong Recital: Oratorio Society
5pm | Nave

Tuesday, February 3

Organ Recital: Kent Tritle
7:30pm | Nave

**The Cathedral Church of
Saint John the Divine**

1047 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025

212.316.7490
stjohndivine.org

@stjohndivinenyc

