

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

December 24, 2025



**WORSHIP WITH US ON EITHER SATURDAY AT 5:15 P.M. OR
SUNDAY AT 11 A.M.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

This will be the last eBlast of 2025. The Church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and will re-open on Monday December 29th. We will also be closed on Thursday, January 1st and will re-open on Monday, January 5th. We would like to take this time to thank all of the people that read the lessons, usher, and greet throughout the year. You truly help make worship a joyous time.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

At our 7:30 p.m. candlelight service.

OR

Join Canon Melinda at St. John Lutheran Church at 4:00 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 28th. This break is scheduled in observance of Christmas weekend, providing an opportunity for everyone to spend more time with their families.

Sunday School classes will resume on January 4th, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

Thank you,

Sunday School Staff

Christmas message from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe



The Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi, Greek Orthodox icon, circa 17th century. / El nacimiento y la adoración de los Reyes Magos, icono ortodoxo griego, circa siglo XVII.

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church,

If you imagine yourself as a character in the Gospel Nativity readings, you'll soon realize that the first Christmas was not about staying home by a warm hearth with chestnuts roasting and stockings hanging. Everyone in these passages is on the move, mostly without warning and against their will. Joseph and Mary are summoned from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census. Shepherds, at the behest of an angel, leave their sheep in the fields to see what all the fuss is about. And the three Magi, my favorites, are just sitting there minding their own kingdoms

when a star intrudes on their lives and leads them on an unplanned and uncomfortable trip far away from home.

The Anglican poet T.S. Eliot [wrote a poem](#) about that arduous journey from the perspective of one of the Magi, recounting, among other things, the difficulty of getting camels to do as they are told. The three kings' encounter with the newborn son of God was hard, disruptive, and unsettling. And when they returned home—by a different road to elude capture by Herod—it no longer felt like home. In Eliot's retelling, the first Christmas turned the Magis' lives upside down, and they had mixed feelings about the whole experience.

You might be greeting Christmas this year with the awe of the shepherds or the wariness of the Magi. Either way, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus came both to experience all of the joy, uncertainty, and brokenness of our humanity, and to bring God's kingdom near. The birth of the Christ Child heralds a new reality in which the last shall be first, the hungry will be fed, and the stranger among us shall be welcomed as a beloved child of God.

This Christmas, I hope that you will join me in proclaiming these good tidings by supporting the most vulnerable among us with a donation to one of these Episcopal Church ministries:

[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), which works with dioceses and ministry networks to serve migrants and protect their rights.

[Good Friday Offering for the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East](#), which supports lifesaving ministry in Gaza and across the Holy Land.

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#), which works for lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change.

I am grateful to be on the journey of faith with you. May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "+ Sean".

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop

WEDNESDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED

Our Wednesday 12:05 Holy Eucharist will resume in the New Year on January 7.

DECEMBER 24 LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 28 LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10- -62:3

Psalm: 147

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18

JANUARY 4 LESSONS

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: 84

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-19a

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

BIRTHDAYS



David Cole	12/26
Katelyn Lewis	12/26
Charles Lattimer	12/27

John & Kristina Felt	12/24
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SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Christmas Eve:

This is a night for treasuring and pondering the gift and mystery of Christ's incarnation. How is it possible, why is it necessary, and what does it mean for God to be a human infant, and for a human infant to be God.



Christmas 1 Dec 28

How have you received "grace upon grace" in your life through Jesus Christ? Can you think of times when God has turned your mourning into joy, your sorrow into gladness? Does the incarnation of Christ call us to "make flesh" the love of God for others/?



While this may be the season for sharing, no one wants a virus. Please be mindful that the Flu, the stomach bug and COVID are present in our community. If you feel unwell, please stay home and recover, even if you have a particular role to play in worship – we'll adjust. We want YOU to get better and we want no one to be sick.



Don't Miss Christmas

SECRET MESSAGE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

20	8	5

7	9	6	20

15	6

3	8	18	9	19	20	13	1	19

9	19

6	15	18

5	22	5	18	25	2	15	4	25

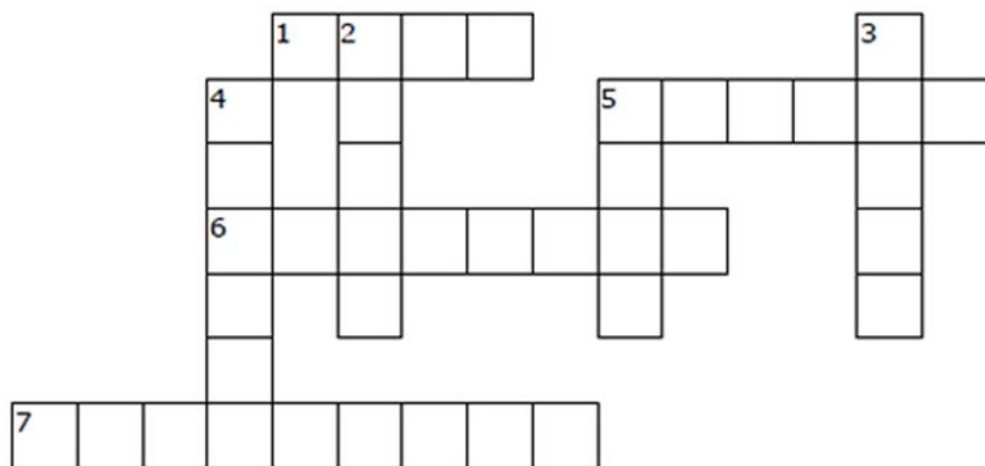
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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 (KJV)

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER