



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2025 10:00 A.M.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865.986.2390

www.episcopalloudon.com



GLORIFYING GOD BY
REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982*. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com,
email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to subscribe to our weekly church email, the *Parish Tidings*, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:
facebook.com/episcopalloudon.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

All 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.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

The First Lesson: 52: 7-10

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Lector We will read the Psalm responsively. (*Congregation reads the bold lines.*)

Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Lector and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 1: 1-4

Lector A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

Please stand as able for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel: John 1: 1-14

Celebrant 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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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

Common Worship, Prayers for Christmas

Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.

Intercessor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, your Son our Saviour was born one holy night in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.,**

Intercessor On that holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

All **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand Lee R., the Scott family, the McAfee family, Ruth & Frank, Ginny, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Kathleen, Brenda B., Jackie C., and David H., and all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer the effects of war, gun violence, oppression, and natural disasters, and all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our country and throughout the world. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand Jane Scott all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,
All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Holy God, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

Celebrant Merciful God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Christmas Kyrie Confession

Common Worship

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

Celebrant Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Celebrant God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
People **forgive our failure to receive him.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
People **forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.**

Celebrant Christ, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
People **forgive the hardness of our hearts.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution of Sin

Celebrant May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand as able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

Doxology (*spoken together*)

**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.**

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord;
People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Celebrant The Lord be with you,
People **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus

**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 people stand or kneel.

Celebrant We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

Celebrant In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord, our God.**

Celebrant Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Hymn

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.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable.

Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way. If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing

Christmas Post-Communion Prayer

Common Worship

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant May God the Father keep you in all your days.
 May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
 May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
 May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
 and pour upon you blessing and light.

And may the blessing of God be with you now and for evermore. Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news
 of Jesus' birth. May God fill you with joy to bring this good news to
 others today. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

Christmas Flower Dedications

*James Follansbee
Vilah Follansbee
Dorothy Parker
Consuelo Heath
(by Carolyn & Chip Parker)*

*Robert & Anne
(by Anne Wegener)*

*Our family
(by Andy & Judy Hadjian)*

*All service members
at home or abroad
(by Tony and Oralee Adams)*

*Delanie Mitchum Ross
(by Monty Ross)*

Epiphany Three Kings Party

**Tuesday, January 6
4- 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

Please bring finger food, charcuterie,
or appetizer to share.

Bring your nativity sets
to the Parish Hall on January 4 or 5.
We will have tables set up for
everyone's creches to be displayed.

Our parish prayer list

The Scott family, The McAfee family,
Ruth & Frank, Ginny, Diane & Cal,
Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Kathleen,,
Brenda B., Jackie C., David H.

Continuing prayers for

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack;
Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe;
Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey;
Johnny; and Karen H.

Pray for our vestry leaders

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.
Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.
Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Sally L.

Save the Date: Upcoming Parish Events

Tuesday, January 6

4-6 p.m. Three Kings Epiphany Party

Sunday, January 11

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday, January 12

10 a.m., Jane Scott visitation, Parish Hall

11 a.m., Jane Scott funeral service, Nave

Holiday Office Schedule

**Please note that the church office
will be closed from
Wednesday, December 24
through Monday, January 5**

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

Dec. 25 10 a.m.
 Acolyte Andrew Wilkinson
 Lector Tony Adams
 Celebrant & Preacher Rebecca Bridges

NEXT WEEK

Dec. 28 8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	
Acolyte Holly Pate	Mark Smith	Altar Guild Judy Egan
Euch. Minister Mark Hennes	Bonnie Smith	
Lector Andrew Wilkinson	Monty Ross	Flower Guild Bev Baumgardner
Ushers Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart & Drew Hawley	Accompanist Tammy Keever
Coffee Hour Rosemary Kitts	Ginny Tolbert	Celebrant & Preacher Rebecca Bridges
Video n/a	Bill Schwindt	Offering Counters Ginny Tolbert
Chancellor Jerry Ploeger	David Baumgardner	& Jean Cardwell

This week at Resurrection

Thursday, December 25

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)

Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral

Many of our small groups and activities are taking a break until after New Year's Day.

Most weekly groups resume the week of January 5-9. Ask group leaders for details.

Office hours

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fridays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To contact our Parish Administrator Amy Lee, email her at office@episcopalloudon.com.

Announcements deadline

To submit an item to be considered for inclusion in The Tidings weekly email and/or the printed bulletin announcements, please be sure to submit your information to Rev. Becky (rector@episcopalloudon.com) by Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges, email rector@episcopalloudon.com or call the church at (865) 986-2390.

Urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240.

TODAY'S ART

UNKNOWN COPTIC ARTIST *St John the Evangelist and the Virgin Mary, from a Copto-Arabic Gospel, c.1204–05, Illuminated Manuscript, Vatican Library, Vatican City; Vat. Copt. 9, fol. 388v, © 2021 Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*

The Gospel of John paints a somewhat different portrait of Jesus from the Synoptic Gospels—one that has distinctive and emphatic ways of highlighting his divinity. Jesus, the Gospel tells us in very direct terms, ‘was God’, and ‘was with God in the beginning’ (1:1–2). Nevertheless, the prologue of John’s Gospel makes it clear that Christ is also a God who ‘was made flesh and made his dwelling among us’ (1:14). This Christ is inseparably divine and human.

Early Christian thinkers read John with great care to understand the relationship between Christ’s human and divine natures. Among these theologians was Cyril (Patriarch of Alexandria, in Egypt, 412–44). In his *Commentary on John*, Cyril demonstrated that the Son is equal to the Father in his divine nature and attacked those who argued otherwise. Meanwhile, in his treatises and letters, Cyril also frequently asserted Christ’s humanity by drawing on John 1:14.

Because Cyril believed that the Word was ‘born’ in flesh (John 1:14; 6:51–56), he also argued that his mother should be addressed with honorific titles such as ‘God-bearer’ (Theotokos) and ‘Mother of God’ (Meter Theou).

Cyril’s writings, which continue to be read and appreciated by Coptic Orthodox Christians in Egypt, may have inspired the painter of the Copto-Arabic Gospel book shown here. The manuscript was written at the Monastery of Saint Anthony at the Red Sea by a certain George in 1204–05 (Leroy 1974: 148–53). Each of the Four Gospels is introduced by a portrait of its author according to a tradition of book illuminations that dates back to late antiquity. John the Evangelist is dressed in a blue tunic and seated to the left of the scene. He holds a book which represents his Gospel and is inscribed with the first verse of John 1 to proclaim Christ’s divine nature.

But who is the figure with open arms to his right? The caption above her head identifies her as the Virgin Mary by addressing her with the same title used by Cyril of Alexandria: ‘Mother of God’. She is here to pray on behalf of the reader but also to prove that, through her, the Word was incarnated in Jesus Christ. Combined, the figures of John and Mary announce Jesus Christ as perfect God (2 Corinthians 4:4) and perfect human (1 Corinthians 15:22).

References

- Cyril of Alexandria. 2013. *Commentary on John*, vol. 1, ed. by Joel C. Elowsky, trans. by David R. Maxwell (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press)
- Leroy, Jules. 1974. *Les manuscrits coptes et coptes-arabes illustrés*, Institut Français d’Archéologie de Beyrouth, Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 96 (Paris: Librairie orientale Paul Geuthner)
- Russell, Norman. 2002. *Cyril of Alexandria* (London: Routledge)

Commentary Source

Jacopo Gnisci. 2021. ‘He was in the World,’ in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* edited by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 19.12.2025]
<https://thevcs.org/word#he-was-world>
