



Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama

Holy Communion of the Simple Presence

The Feast of Saints Agnes and Cecilia of Rome

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

5:15 p.m.

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*We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is Enriching Our Worship. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. This year, when appropriate, the lessons for this service will commemorate Saints of the Episcopal Church.*

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who chooses those whom the world deems powerless to put the powerful to shame, Grant us so to cherish the memory of your youthful martyrs Agnes and Cecilia, that we might share their pure and steadfast faith in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Lessons

Psalm 45: 11-16

*Eructavit cor meum*

BCP 648



- <sup>11</sup> “Hear, O daughter; consider and listen **closely**; \*  
forget your people and your father’s **house**.  
<sup>12</sup> The king will have pleasure in your **beauty**; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him **honor**.  
<sup>13</sup> The people of Tyre are here with a **gift**; \*  
the rich among the people seek your **favor**.”  
<sup>14</sup> All glorious is the princess as she **enters**; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-**gold**.  
<sup>15</sup> In embroidered apparel she is brought to the **king**; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in **procession**.  
<sup>16</sup> With joy and gladness they are **brought**, \*  
and enter into the palace of the **king**.

*Silence.*

## Phos hilaron

*The Eighth Tune*  
Hymnal 25

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father’s glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.  
Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.  
Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

## The Holy Gospel:

*Matthew 18:1-6*

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Meditation

*Silence.*

## The Prayers of the People: Form II

*The leader and people pray responsively.*

BCP 385

*Celebrant:* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Russell; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

*Silence.*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially Agnes and Cecilia of Rome whom we remember today.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence.*

## Confession of Sin

BCP 359

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Celebrant and People:*

**God of all mercy,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Celebrant:*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

# The Holy Communion

## The Offertory

Solo

William Bradley Roberts

*When I'm afflicted, poor, and low*

(b. 1947)

Mollie Adams, *soprano*

When I'm afflicted, poor, and low, and light and peace depart,  
my God beholds my heavy woe, and bears me on his heart.

I waited patient for the Lord, he bowed to hear my cry;  
He saw me resting on his word, and brought salvation nigh.

He raised me from a horrid pit, where mourning long I lay,  
and from my bonds released my feet, deep bonds of miry clay.  
Firm on a rock he made me stand, and taught my cheerful tongue  
to praise the wonders of his hand, in a new thankful song.

How many are thy thoughts of love! Thy mercies, Lord, how great!

We have not words nor hours enough, their numbers to repeat.

When I'm afflicted, poor, and low, and light and peace depart,  
my God beholds my heavy woe, and bears me on his heart.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer I*

EOW 57

*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, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## *Sanctus*

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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." As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Agnes and Cecilia of Rome and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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.**

## Fraction Anthem

EOW 69

*Celebrant:* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

EOW 70

*Celebrant:* God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Closing Hymn

*Christ for the world we sing! v. 1*

*Moscow*  
Hymnal 537

Christ for the world we sing!  
The world to Christ we bring  
with loving zeal;  
the poor, and them that mourn,  
the faint and overborne,



## AGNES OF ROME

(291—304)

MARTYR

Agnes is a Christian martyr who died at Rome around 304 in the persecution of Diocletian: the last and fiercest of the persecutions of Christianity by the Roman emperors. The anniversary of her martyrdom is observed on 21 January. Her name means “pure” in Greek and “lamb” in Latin. She is said to have been only about twelve or thirteen when she died, and the remains preserved in St Agnes' Church in Rome are in agreement with this. It is said that her execution shocked many Romans and helped bring an end to the persecutions. Some said, “It is contrary to Roman law to put a virgin to death. Our leaders say that it is necessary to kill Christians in order to preserve the old Roman ways: but they are themselves scorning those ways in the process.” Others said, “Do young girls constitute such a threat to Rome that it is necessary to kill them?” Others said, “If this religion can enable a twelve-year-old girl to meet death without fear, it is worth checking out.”

There is a narrative poem by Keats, called “The Eve of Saint Agnes.” It is a romantic poem with a medieval setting, about an elopement the night before St Agnes' Day. The only tie-in with Agnes is that (presumably because she died as a young virgin), Agnes is regarded as the patron of young unmarried girls, and there is a folk-belief that a girl who goes to bed supperless on the eve of St Agnes's Day will dream that night about her husband-to-be.

## CECELIA OF ROME

(c 280)

MARTYR

Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and Church music because as she was dying she sang to God. Cecelia was a noble lady of Rome who, with her husband Valerian, his brother Tiburtius, and a Roman soldier Maximus, suffered martyrdom, c. 230, under the Emperor Alexander Severus. The martyrdom of Cecilia is said to have followed that of her husband and his brother by the prefect Turcius Almachius. The officers of the prefect then sought to have Cecilia killed as well. At that time, the officials attempted to kill her by boiling her alive. However, the attempt failed, and she was to be beheaded. The executioner attempted to decapitate her three times unsuccessfully, at which time he fled. Cecilia survived another three days before succumbing.

# CATHEDRAL NOTES

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 1

Christ Church Cathedral is thrilled to host Trebled Soul, the Alabama State University Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and the Excelsior Band for our 5th Annual Black History Month Celebration. Join us for a service highlighting the rich tradition of music we enjoy from Black composers and cultures, including jazz, Afro-American hymns, and spirituals. We will also welcome that day The Reverend Bertice Berry, PhD, a sociologist, author, lecturer, storyteller, mother, and grandmother. She is a woman of science and faith. Ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, Dr. Berry will be our preacher that day. Dr. Berry believes that every one of us has been given a unique purpose and it is our obligation to find it and use it to improve first our own self and then the lives of those we live and work with. She is a world renowned expert in corporate engagement, belonging, transformational leadership and internal wellness. She has enthralled our delegates as a speaker at our Diocesan Convention, and we are excited to have her speak here at Christ Church Cathedral.



## KAPPA LEAGUE BRUNCH

We are combining the celebration with our annual brunch in support of the Mobile Kappa League. The funds are for preparation and fees for college entrance exams for members of the Mobile Kappa League. We are asking for sponsors willing to support the project for \$100 (sponsorship entitles you to 4 tickets). Brunch tickets are \$10. You may become a sponsor, or purchase tickets by signing-up at church—look for a sign-up in the vestibules or by using the link sent in the weekly email and on the website landing page.



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 25

The Parish Meeting for review of 2025 and looking forward to 2026 will take place immediately following the service.

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Hymnal 25: Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

*When I'm afflicted, poor, and low*: Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Based on Psalm 40. Music: William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947).

Hymnal S-125: Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Hymnal 537: Words: Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886). Music: *Moscow*, melody Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on Hymns *Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).



## Ministers For Today

Celebrant .....The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson  
Organist.....Josh Coble  
Cantor.....Mollie Adams  
Altar Guild ..... Barbara Archer, Skip Archer, Linda Grill



## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*  
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., *Rector and Dean*  
The Reverend Thomas K. Heard, *Priest Associate*  
The Reverend Pratt Paterson, *Deacon*  
Dr. Joshua H. Coble, *Organist and Choirmaster*  
Mollie A. Adams, *Cantor*  
Andy R. Palileo, *Audio-Visual Specialist*

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