

THE SERMON The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston  
 The Nicene Creed 358  
 The Prayers of the People 388  
 The Peace and Announcements

**LITURGY OF THE TABLE**

OFFERTORY  
**380** Doxology (vs. 3)  
 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D **372**  
**S128** *Sanctus* William Mathias  
 The Lord's Prayer **364**  
 The Breaking of the Bread  
**S154** *Fraction Anthem* David Hurd  
 POST COMMUNION PRAYER **366**  
**336** *Come with us, O blessed Jesus*  
 POSTLUDE: *Prelude in G Major* J. S. Bach

**Serving Today:**  
**Celebrant:** *The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston*  
**Organist:** *Sylvia Sutter*  
**Acolytes:** *Robert Tankard (8), Zach Wright (10)*  
**Eucharistic Minister:** *Susan Tankard (8), Allison Smith (10)*  
**Lector:** *Judi Miller (8), Betty Wheeler (10)*  
**Ushers:** *Jan & Mickey Cochran*  
**Altar Guild:** *Betty Eschenbauch*  
**Coffee Hour:** *Susan Stewart, Kathy Sutter*  
**Flower Guild:** *Susan Tankard*

**This week in your prayers, please remember:**

**Healing & Guidance:** Ivan McRoy, Muffy Bowman, Rosemary Turnage, Lou Batton (Mark Batton's mother, Sylvia Sutter's sister), Alethia Anderson, Donald Michaud, Bob Cruse, Bishop Carl Wright, Bishop David O' Connell, Olivia Hill, Jayne Spangler, Jason Alford, Alan Daughtry, Katherine Mitchell, Sallie Sawyer, The Wester family, David Smith (Tim Smith's brother), Joe Buziak, Victoria Messina, John Denton, Robbie Moulton, Victoria Messina, Jack & Kathryn Brake, Gail Shaull, Hubert Yeatman, Brooke Fritz

**Remember the Caregivers:**

**Military:** Bradley Craig Ward, Chris Raducha, Adam Raducha, Hayden Tankard, Nathaniel Bowen, Frank Yenny (Jack & Kathryn Brake's grandson), McCauley Griffin (Annie Griffin's grandson), Sloan Smith (Robert Tankard's niece), Walker Brown (Pat & Sue Brown's grandson), Lonnie Carraway (Stephanie & Ken Reynold's son-in-law)

**Birthdays:** Doug LeFevre (6<sup>th</sup>), Jane Capps (10<sup>th</sup>)

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. THOMAS IN YOUR WILL**

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**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**Bath, North Carolina**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**  
**Holy Eucharist**

**January 5, 2025, 9 AM**



**North Carolina's Oldest Church**

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## *WELCOME*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

(Based on an Ancient German Hymn)

J. S. Bach

**93** *Angels from the realms of glory*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

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

**The Collect for Purity**

**355**

**S278** *Gloria*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* Let us pray.

**The Collect For The Day**

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.*

**The First Lesson: 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.

**Psalm 84:1-8**

- 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.

**The Second Lesson: 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.

*277 Sing of Mary, pure and lowly*

**The Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."