

St.
Thaddeus
Episcopal Church



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The Second Sunday After Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 2026
10:00 AM

Loving God ♦ Serving Others ♦ Living Our Faith

Welcome to St. Thaddeus

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! This service is but a small part of the continual prayer and praise offered to God by Christians at every hour and in every part of the world. At times, it may feel as if you are dropping in on a conversation already in progress between God and God's people, which continues unto the ages. Don't be surprised or disturbed if there are some things that you don't understand right away—and don't be embarrassed to ask for help. We pray that this service invites you into the ongoing stream of prayer and praise that unites us all—on Earth and in Heaven—as one Body of Christ.

Please enter the church quietly in order not to disturb those who are in prayer, and take care to silence all noise-making devices. Children are especially encouraged and welcome to participate in all aspects of worship! “Holy wiggles” are a sure and certain sign of life and joy!

This worship service is being livestreamed on Facebook and Vimeo and will be archived on our website.

VOLUNTARY: I WONDER AS I WANDER

Mary Norris, flute; Jay Jones, piano

PRELUDE ON *IRBY*

arr. JAMES GILBERT

All stand.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 102

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Verse 1 – sung by Carol Hokans, soprano. During the organ interlude, the congregation is invited to stand and join the choir in singing verses 2 – 6.

Verse 6 – harmonization – Brandon Straube; descant - Don Dupée

The Presider addresses the People.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Presider 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.*

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

READ BY A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR

GENESIS 2:4b-9, 15-25

WORTH SWEARINGEN

God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Remain seated.

ANTHEM: ADAM LAY IBOUNDEN

THOMAS GIBBS

Adam lay ibounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter thought he not too long;
And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok, As clerkes finden wreten in their book.

Ne hadde the appil take ben, ne hadde never our lady aben hevene quene.

Blessed be the time that appil take was. Therefore we moun singen “Deo gracias.”

Text-Middle English c. 14th century

THE SECOND LESSON

READ BY A CHILD

ISAIAH 40:1-11

ROLAND WHITESIDE

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All stand.

THE HYMN: 67

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

All are seated.

THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

READ BY THE HEAD OF MEAD HALL'S MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL

DR. MIKE BUCK

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Remain seated.

ANTHEM: JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

RICHARD SHEPHERD

THE FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-15

***READ BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ST. THADDEUS CHAPTER OF
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING***

NINA MILTON

God Promises that a child shall be conceived and will be known as "God is with us."

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All remain seated.

ANTHEM: CALL TO ADVENT

J. J. WILLIAMS

THE FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-58

READ BY THE CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST

DON DUPÉE

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All stand.

THE HYMN: 437

TELL OUT MY SOUL

All are seated.

THE SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-20

READ BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF AIKEN
THE HONORABLE TEDDY MILNER

Jesus is Born in Bethlehem and worshiped by angels and shepherds.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All Stand.

HYMN 96

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

All are seated.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:21-36

READ BY THE SENIOR WARDEN

WILL GIBBS

Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the temple.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All stand.

HYMN: 499 LORD GOD, YOU NOW HAVE SET YOUR SERVANT FREE

All are seated.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

HEBREWS 1:1-12

READ BY THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

THE REVEREND JOSEPH S. WHITEHURST

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever.

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.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

‘You are my Son;
today I have begotten you’?

Or again,

‘I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son’?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

Of the angels he says,

‘He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.’

But of the Son he says,

‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’

And,

‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.’

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Remain seated.

ANTHEM: HE IS BORN, THE DIVINE CHILD

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

Translation of the French refrain: He is born, the Divine Child, play the oboe, sound the musette. He is born, the Divine Child, let us all sing his nativity.

THE NINTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-18

READ BY THE RECTOR

THE REVEREND DR. MARSHALL A. JOLLY

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

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. (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 God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

All stand.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: 83 (OMIT VS. 4-5) O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

All are seated.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

All stand.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

The Celebrant 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.

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.

Amen.

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

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION: 87 HARK! THE HERALD ANGEL SINGS

THE VOLUNTARY: ADESTE FIDELIS harmonized-Marcel Dupré

Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you are worshipping with us for the first time: Welcome, we’re glad you’re here and hope to see you again. Please take a moment to sign our guest register located in the Narthex (foyer) so that we can make this welcome a more personal one. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you’ll consider making it here with us at St. Thaddeus. Again, thank you for worshipping with us today; may you find here the peace, comfort, and love of God to carry you through your week.

Are you new to the area or visiting our church for the first time and want to know more about St. Thaddeus? Then scan the QR code below and see our website and complete our newcomer form.





~ Serving Today ~

Presider	The Reverend Dr. Marshall A. Jolly
Assisting Priest	The Reverend Joseph S. Whitehurst
Crucifer	Ivy Parrott
First Reader	Worth Swearingen
Second Reader	Roland Whiteside
Third Reader	Dr. Mike Buck
Fourth Reader	Nina Milton
Fifth Reader	Don Dupée
Sixth Reader	The Honorable Teddy Milner
Seventh Reader	Will Gibbs
Eighth Reader	The Reverend Joseph S. Whitehurst
Ninth Reader	The Reverend Dr. Marshall A. Jolly
Ushers	Blythe Ferguson
	Tom Warren
Sound	Jenks Meyer
Streaming	Meredith Parrott
Director of Music & Organist	Mr. Don Dupée
<u>The St. Thaddeus Choir</u>	
Bonnie Coward	Susan Stribling
Gayle Ferguson	Worth Swearingen
Carol Hokans	Rob Swingle
Jay Jones	Peter Verbrick
James Langford	Warren Westcott
Julia McKeon	

Saint Thaddeus Episcopal Church

Founded 1842



Loving God ♦ Serving Others ♦ Living Our Faith

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards, Bishop

The Reverend Dr. Marshall A. Jolly, Rector

The Reverend Joseph S. Whitehurst, Associate Rector

The Reverend Dr. Frank Sawyer, Head of Mead Hall School

Denise Kinard, Finance and Facilities Administrator

Sondra Boyer, Parish Administrator

Don Dupée, Director of Music & Organist

Jay Jones, Rector's Assistant for Ministry

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VESTRY

Will Gibbs, Sr. Warden; J. R. Ludwick, Jr. Warden;

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