



# Apostles

## Anglican Church

**The Second Sunday of Christmas**

1/4/2026

**Liturgy for the Contemporary Service**  
The Anglican Church in North America

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE BELL

### OPENING SONGS

#### Better Is One Day

(Verse 1)

*How lovely is Your dwelling place*

*O Lord almighty*

*For my soul longs and even faints for You*

*For here my heart is satisfied*

*Within Your presence*

*I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings*

(Chorus)

*Better is one day in Your courts*

*Better is one day in Your house*

*Better is one day in Your courts*

*Than thousands elsewhere*

(Verse 2)

*One thing I ask and I would seek*

*To see Your beauty*

*To find You in the place*

*Your glory dwells*

(Bridge)

*My heart and flesh cry out*

*For You the living God*

*Your Spirit's water to my soul*

*I've tasted and I've seen*

*Come once again to me*

*I will draw near to You*

*I will draw near to You*

**Another Like You**

**(Verse 1)**

***You embodied the fullness of God***

***Wrapped in mercy, You showed us Your heart***

***Your love upon the cross***

***Your love poured out for all***

**(Chorus)**

***There is no one like the Lord our God***

***You've been faithful every day of my life***

***I could search the world and never find***

***Another like You, another like You***

**(Verse 2)**

***You set a table, You invite us to come***

***Your body broken, Your blood was enough***

***This love upon the cross***

***This love poured out for all***

**(Bridge)**

***Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the King***

***Worthy is the One who reigns forever***

***Seated on the throne, high above it all***

***Everyone will know You're like no other***

**THE ACCLAMATION**

Priest: For unto us a child is born.

**People: Unto us a son is given.**

Priest: Let us pray.

**THE COLLECT OF 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 our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

For 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 labour, 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: *Thanks be to God.***

### **Psalm 84**

- 1 How lovely are your dwellings, \*  
O LORD God of hosts!
- 2 My soul has a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD; \*  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 Indeed, the sparrow has found her a house, and the swallow a nest where she  
may lay her young, \*  
even your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are they who dwell in your house; \*  
they will be always praising you.
- 5 Blessed is the one whose strength is in you, \*  
in whose heart are your ways,
- 6 Who going through the valley of misery uses it for a well; \*  
indeed, the early rains fill the pools with water.
- 7 They will go from strength to strength, \*  
and the God of gods shall be seen by them in Zion.
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 9 Behold, O God, our defender, \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 10 For one day in your courts \*  
is better than a thousand;
- 11 I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God \*  
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- 12 For the LORD God is a light and defense; \*  
the LORD will give grace and honor, and no good thing shall he withhold from  
those who live a godly life.
- 13 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
blessed is the one who puts his trust in you.

All: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.*

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

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. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The Gospel** (congregation standing)

*Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory*

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED *(congregation standing)*

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, visible and invisible.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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** (*congregation standing or kneeling*)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

For Bishops Ray Sutton and Julian Dobbs, for Steve, our Archbishop, and Mark and Allen, our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation.

Father, we ask that you continue to bless our search process for a new rector. Raise up for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may be a home for spiritual orphans and seekers.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially Donald, our president, Andy, our governor, and Linda, our mayor.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Priest: Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

*Most merciful God,*

*we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.*

*For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

## THE PEACE (*congregation standing*)

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

## THE DOXOLOGY (*congregation standing*)

*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.*

## THE OFFERTORY

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours: Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all.

All things come from you, O Lord.

**People: And of your own have we given you.**

## THE SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## THE 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.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.*

#### **THE FRACTION**

*This is Jesus, Emmanuel.  
God is with us in this sacrament.  
Come receive Him, adore Him.  
This is Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHP

*Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## THE RECESSIONAL (*congregation standing*)

## CLOSING SONG

### Jesus We Love You

*(Verse 1)*

*Old things have passed away,*

*Your love has stayed the same*

*Your constant grace remains the cornerstone*

*Things that we thought were dead,*

*Are breathing in life again*

*You cause Your Son to shine on darkest nights*

*(Pre-Chorus)*

*For all that You've done we will pour out our love*

*This will be our anthem song*

*(Chorus)*

*Jesus we love You*

*Oh how we love You*

*You are the one our hearts adore*

*(Verse 2)*

*The hopeless have found their hope*

*The orphans now have a home*

*All that was lost has found its place in You*

*You lift our weary heads*

*You make us strong instead*

*You took these rags and made us beautiful*

*(Bridge)*

*Our affection, our devotion*

*Poured out on the feet of Jesus*

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



## Apostles Anglican Church

Sunday, 8:30 and 10:55 am  
[www.apostleslex.com](http://www.apostleslex.com)  
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859-245-1318



Scan this QR Code with  
your phone's camera to  
access our online giving,  
website, upcoming events,  
and more.

### **Friendly Reminders:**

*Please place your bulletins in a blue recycling bin after services.*

*We kindly ask that children stay on the Sanctuary level during  
discipleship hour and after services for their safety.*

*There is always a team available to pray with you during Communion.*