

# The Church of the Holy Cross

Valle Crucis, North Carolina



*The First Sunday After Christmas*  
December 29, 2024

**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:00 am**

*Welcome to The Church of the Holy Cross.*

*Children are most welcome to participate in all services. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants. Coffee will be served in Skiles Hall after the service.*

## *Welcome Home to Holy Cross!*

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at [www.holycrossvallecrucis.net](http://www.holycrossvallecrucis.net)



It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

*Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.*

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**Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
**The Word of God**

**Prelude:**

*Offered by Shane Watson*

***Greetings and Announcements***

*Pages 15-16*

**The Processional Hymn: #87 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

*Mendelssohn*

**Opening Acclamation:**

BCP 299

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

*People:* **And blessed be God’s kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

*Priest:* There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People:* **There is one hope in God’s call to us;**

*Priest:* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People:* **One God and Father of all.**

**The Gloria: #96 (vs. 1) “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

*Gloria*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**The Collect of the Day:**

The Lord be with you.

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:  
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*The people are seated for the readings from Scripture.*

***The First Lesson follows as printed on the next page.***

**The First Lesson:****Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Time for silent reflection follows the reading.*

**The Children's Homily: "What is Baptism"****The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans****The Second Lesson:****Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*(Time for silent reflection follows the reading.)*

**The Gradual Hymn: #82 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"***Divinum mysterium*

*The Gospel follows as printed on the next page.*

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. (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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon:**

**The Rev. Elizabeth Tester**

*A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated.*

**The Presentation and Examination of the Baptismal Candidate:**

BCP 301

*Priest:* The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*The candidate along with his parents and Godparents gather at the font and say,*

We present Ava Francesca Miller Hartmans to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*The Priest asks the parents and godparents:*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I will, with God's help.

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Response:* I will, with God's help.

*Then the Priest now asks the following questions of the parents and godparents on behalf of each child.*

*Question:* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*Question:* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*Question:* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*Question:* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer:* I do.

*Question:* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer:* I do.

*Question:* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer:* I do.

*The Priest addresses the congregation and asks,*

*Question:* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in her life in Christ?

***People:* We will.**

*Priest:* Let us join with all who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*All stand.*

**The Baptismal Covenant:**

*Deacon:* Do you believe in God the Father?

***People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Deacon: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the  
Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Deacon: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.**

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

### **The Prayers for the Candidate:**

Priest: Let us now pray for Ava Faye who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Deacon: Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Continued...*

Deacon: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

### The Procession to the Baptismal Font

Baptism Hymn: LEVAS #120

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers

1        There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
          And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord.  
          There are sweet expressions on each face,  
          And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

**Refrain:**        Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,  
                  Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
                  And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
                  Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived  
                  when we shall leave this place.

2        There are blessings you cannot receive  
          Till you know Him in His fullness, and believe.  
          You’re the one to profit when you say,  
          ‘I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.’    **Refrain**



3 If you say He saved you from your sin,  
Now you're weak, you're bound, and cannot enter in,  
you can make it right if you will yield;  
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel. *Refrain*

### **The Thanksgiving over the Water:**

*The Priest blesses the water, first saying,*

The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Priest touches the water saying,*

Now sanctify (†) this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

### **The Baptism**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace.

*Continued...*

Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

**People: Amen.**

*The Deacon places a hand on the child's head, marking on her forehead the sign of the cross (†) using Chrism and saying,*

Faye, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

**People: Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**Priest and People:**

**We receive you into the household of God.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,  
proclaim his resurrection,  
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

*Preceded by the Priest asperging the congregation with the water of baptism the Godparents, followed by the parents, carry the newly baptized into the congregation.*

**The Peace:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*

### ***Concerning The Holy Communion***

*A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.*

*We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.*

*To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.*

*If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.*

### **The Holy Communion**

**The Offertory Anthem:**

“Ave Maria”

J.S. Bach / Charles Gounod

*Marni Hartmans-Warner, soloist*

**The Presentation Hymn: #107 (vs. 1) “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** *In dulci jubilo*

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**EOW I**

*Some portions of the Eucharistic Prayer will be rendered in Spanish.*

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels, in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**The Sanctus:**

**WLP #785**

**Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!**

**Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Señor.**

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!**

**My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

*Continued...*

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

**People: “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. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

**People: 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.”**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, The Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the Mother Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. 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.

**People: AMEN.**

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

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

***Traditional Version***

**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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread:** (The Fraction)

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**The Fraction Anthem:**

*#S-164*

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

**The Invitation:**

*The Priest invites the people to Communion.*

*Please come to the Altar to receive Communion. At the Altar Rail move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last. Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.*

**Hymns during the Communion:**

**#81 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

**#89 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

*An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.  
When all have communed, the following hymn is sung.*

**Kneeling Hymn: #100**

**“Silent Night”**

*Antioch*

*An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the following prayer.*

**The Post-communion Prayer:**

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All stand.*

**The Blessing:**

*The Priest offers a blessing concluding with,*

*And the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you this day and remain with you always.*

**People: Amen.**

**The Dismissal:**

BCP 366

*Priest:* Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

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

**Processional Hymn: LEVAS #160 “This Little Light of Mine”**

Traditional

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!
- 3 All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine!  
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine!  
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

**Postlude:**

*Offered by Shane Watson*

**We are delighted to Welcome Home to Holy Cross, the Rev. Elizabeth Tester  
and the Rev. Oscar Rozo**

*We thank Shane Watson for sharing his musical gifts with us today!*

*We also thank those who served this morning:*

<i>Deacon:</i>	The Rev. Dr. Bill McGee
<i>Greeters/Oblationers:</i>	Katie Hall & Randy McDonough
<i>Ushers:</i>	Katie Hall & Randy McDonough
<i>Lector:</i>	Rebecca Alford
<i>Chalice:</i>	Kim Gauss & Sis Kinney
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Kim Gauss
<i>Linen Fairies:</i>	Darby Logan
Offertory Soloist:	Marni Hartmans-Warner
Godparents:	Ben & Christy Cooper Christy Miller Patrice Miller The Rev. Elizabeth Tester & The Rev. Oscar Rozo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024* *The First Sunday After Christmas*

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 10:00 am** Joint Christian Formation (*Upper Skiles*)
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with Holy Baptism and music*)  
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:30 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

### *2025 CALENDARS AVAILABLE*

A limited supply of 2025 Churchman's Ordo Calendars are available for purchase for \$5 in the Parish Office. This calendar offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days which are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion.

### *MEN'S NIGHT OUT REMINDER*

Please note that Men's Night Out is taking three months off during the winter season, but will resume gatherings in March 2025. However, if you are interested in hosting one of our gatherings this year, please send an email to [KeithTMartin@gmail.com](mailto:KeithTMartin@gmail.com).

### *NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024* *The Second Sunday After Christmas*

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 10:00 am** Joint Christian Formation (*Upper Skiles*)
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with Holy Baptism and music*)  
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:30 pm** *“The burning of the greens!”* – Lower parking area
- 1:00 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

# The Parish Prayer List: December 22, 2024

*Please keep the following in your prayers this week:*

**For Healing:** Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Laura B., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Roberta T., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., Steve S., Nick H., Pat & Linda H., Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Hope L., David S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Mary M., Cornelia S., Ann G., Mary Jane M., Dave & Pat P., Jan H., Kelly C., Jesse H., Joe U., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Joe V., Jocelyn,

\_\_\_\_\_.

**For those in Harm's Way:** All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

*Note: We will be Updating our Prayer List for the new year.*

If you wish for someone to remain on the current list, or to add someone new, **please email the Parish Office at [holy\\_cross@skybest.com](mailto:holy_cross@skybest.com)**. Be sure to include the person's full name, nature of prayer request, and any other pertinent information. Please do not call the Office with these updates. *Thank you.*

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## The Church of the Holy Cross

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## Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

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