1st Sunday After CHRISTMAS ·

Happy NEWYEAR

Welcome to our home! We would love for you to join our family!

December 31, 2023

We Gather

Processional Hymn: #497 How bright appears the Morning Star Please stand & sing as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect For Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion: #S-102

Please remain standing.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

- People: And also with you.
- *Celebrant:* 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. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Please be seated.

- *Reader:* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.
 - 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.

Psalm 147:13-21

- *Reader:* Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
- People: praise your God, O Zion;
- *Reader:* For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
- People: he has blessed your children within you.
- *Reader:* He has established peace on your borders;
- People: he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

Reader: He sends out his command to the earth,

People: and his word runs very swiftly.

Read responsively by half verse.

Reader: He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. People: He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; Reader: People: who can stand against his cold? Reader: He sends forth his word and melts them; People: he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. Reader: He declares his word to Jacob, People: his statutes and his judgments to Israel. Reader: He has not done so to any other nation; People: to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

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.

Sequence Hymn: #82

Of the Father's love begotten (v. 1-2 before, v. 3 after Gospel) Please stand & sing as you are able.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Please remain standing.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: The Rev. Chris Cole

Please be seated.

We Pray

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People

Form III; BCP p. 387

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; especially...

People: St. Andrew's, Stillwater; St. Augustine Canterbury—OSU Campus Ministry; Diocese of Central New York; Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe; Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; that we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

- People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.
- *Reader*: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially...
- People: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Chris & Tom, our clergy; Alex & Audrey, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God, that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
- *Reader*: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; for...
- People: Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Josh, our Congressman; James & Markwayne, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor, that there may be justice and peace on the earth.
- *Reader*: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
- *People:* That our works may find favor in your sight.

Please stand & sing as you are able.

- *Reader*: Have compassion on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially...
- People: the Johnson family, Ronnie, Mike, John, Géneva, Glenn, Rose, Karen, Paul, Tracey, Adriana, Fred, Stuart, John Paul, Michael, Joey, Nancy, Dale, Gary, Brittney, Thomas, Catheryne, Jennifer, Patricia, Cathy, Dustin, Paula, Phillip, Marlene, Taylor, those impacted by war and violence, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God; that they may be delivered from their distress.
- *Reader*: Give to the departed eternal rest;
- People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Reader: Let us pray for our needs and those of others, either silently or aloud.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Confession and Absolution

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

Celebrant & People: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

Celebrant:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Music:

Doxology: #380 v. 3

Please be seated.

Please stand as you are able.

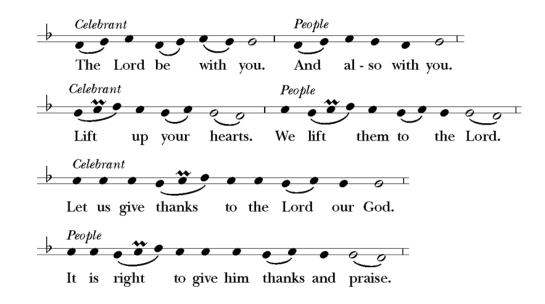
Noel

We Share the Meal

Eucharistic Prayer A

Sursum Corda: #S-120

Please remain standing.



Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, 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 mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power 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:

Sanctus: #S-125

Please sit or kneel after the Sanctus.

Celebrant: † Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." $\dagger \dagger \dagger$

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." $\dagger \dagger \dagger$

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. 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*.

Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant & 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: #S-161

Celebrant: 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.

At Grace Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the usher if you need communion brought to you at your seat. IF you wish to receive the bread only, hold your palms upward, consume the bread, and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer approaches. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come to the altar rail to receive a Blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest when the priest approaches.

Communion Music:

There's Something About that Name / Oh How I Love Jesus

We Go Into the World

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People:

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.

Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: 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 forever. **Amen**.

Recessional Hymn: #573 Father, eternal, Ruler of creation

Please stand & sing.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



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