

1st Sunday After  
**CHRISTMAS**

*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**

*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

*Read responsively by half verse.*

*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.**



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.**

*Reader:* Have compassion on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially...  
*People:* **the Johnson family, Ronnie, Mike, John, Geneva, 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**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*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**

*Please be seated.*

*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:**

**Noel**

## **Doxology: #380 v. 3**

*Please stand & sing as you are able.*



*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**

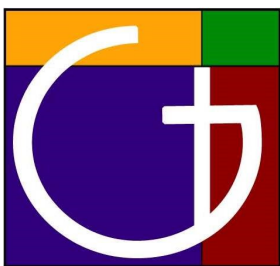
***Father, eternal, Ruler of creation***

*Please stand & sing.*

## Dismissal

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

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



Grace Episcopal

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**Social Media:** [Facebook.com/GraceMuskogee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskogee) & [Twitter.com/GraceMuskogee](https://twitter.com/GraceMuskogee)

**Ministers:** All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

**Priest in Charge:** The Rev. Chris Cole

**Sr. Warden:** Alex Wilson

**Jr. Warden:** Audrey Stone

**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Malcolm McGuire

**Youth & Children's Director:** Nancy Scott

