

10:00am Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

Flowers given in memory of Earl W. Baker.

GUEST MUSICIAN: *Kirk Kupensky - Harpist*

PRELUDE: Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending/Adeste Fideles. (J.B. Chatterton)

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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.**

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

^{62:1}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.

²The 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.

³You 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

¹Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; ***
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**He counts the number of the stars ***
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, ***
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

**⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;**
⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
**¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.**
¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
**¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.**
¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
**¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
**¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**
¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
**¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**
¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
**²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

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

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

^{4:4}But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So 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.**

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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 CREED

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart, mind, soul and strength, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord have mercy.”
For the church and all its ministers, and for St. John’s and its mission and ministry, let us pray to
the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and all those in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace throughout the world, especially in Gaza, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and an end to
all terrorism and violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in our armed forces at home and abroad, especially those from our families and
community, and for all first responders, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those infected with or at risk from the COVID virus, and for all health care and other
front-line workers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed and the destitute, for refugees, prisoners and
captives, for victims of natural disasters, and for all who have asked for our prayers, let us pray
to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness
in our neighbor. We have promised that with your help we will strive for justice and peace
among all people and will respect the dignity of every human being. Enable us to see the reality
of racism and free us to challenge and uproot discrimination from our church, our society, our
world and ourselves, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to
the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE HARP: Noel Proença (Marcel Grandjey)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
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, 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:

**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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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."

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." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC HARP: Noel Nouvelet (Kathryn Cater)

Let us pray.

COMMUNION MUSIC HARP: Noel Nouvelet (Kathryn Cater)

BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. \

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE HARP: He is Born (Frank Voltz)

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Announcements

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00am on Sunday, February 2. If you are interested in running for vestry or to be a deputy to diocesan convention, please talk to Father Adam or a vestry member. If you have a report to include in the Annual Report, please submit them to Father Adam by Sunday, February 19.

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: John Kachursky

Junior Warden: Barb Sudzina

Clerk: Becky Yoho

Treasurer: Mark Perfilio

Members: Angie Lindsay, Heidi Marshall, Dick Steingrabe, Shane White.