

The First Sunday after Christmas
Morning Prayer Rite II
Sunday, December 26, 2021

Prelude Ding Dong Merrily On High

Sung by the Choir

Welcome & Announcements

We Three Kings

Soloists & the Congregation

Opening Sentence

Presider Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

All

**Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:
You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human
family. We have desired to live in freedom,
while building walls between ourselves and others.
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of
features, or the varieties of human experience.
We have tried to love our neighbors individually
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,
united in our diversity,
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever.
Amen**

Presider 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.

The Invitatory & Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Presider The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Sung by all

The Psalm of the Day: 147:13-20

Read by Richard Auletta

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *

he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *

and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *

who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *

to them he has not revealed his judgments.

Hallelujah!

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 for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians

Read by Keisha Lightbourne

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn Jesus the light of the world sung by Taiwan Norris

A reading from the Gospel of John.

Read by Carol Normandin

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 word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Deacon John Musco

The Apostles Creed

Said in unison

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

**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.
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. Amen.**

The Offertory The Holly and the Ivy Sung by the choir

We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website>

Doxology

Sung by all

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Presider And now as our Savior Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264

Sung by all

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Prayers

Led by Janet Kaplan

God of wonder and mystery,
God of the stars and the universe,
God of winding ways and straight paths,
we gather today with gratitude for the gift of your constant presence, your trustworthy guidance,
and your daring risk-taking with us.

You dare to love us despite our inability to respond fully.
You dare to care for us, despite our challenge in caring for others.
You dare to walk with us, despite our fickleness.

On our own journeys toward the stars and guiding points you put before us, you continue to lead
us forward, guiding us by the teachings of Jesus to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly
in your loving shadow.

As we struggle with the political wrangling of this world, the wars waged for both justice and greed, the violence committed daily against the innocent, let alone the pain of broken relationships and loss, you remain steadfast in your care and devotion for your entire creation throughout the universe.

It is almost too much to take in sometimes.

And even in our doubts and disbelief, our struggle to understand and constant misunderstanding, and our flat-out ignorance about your ways, you remain constantly present to us.

We pray for peace in this world, Lord, the kind of peace in which we celebrate diversity, are joyfully challenged by adversity, and share in the joy that is to be found everywhere.

We pray for those who are lonely,
that you might lead us to reach out and be friends.

We pray for those who are hungry,
that you might lead us to offer sustenance.

We pray for those who are lost,
that you might lead us to give hope and direction.

We pray for those all who have died, that you will receive them into your loving arms, and comfort all who mourn for their loved ones.

We pray for the countries of the world,
that we might find a way to work together to lift one another up.

We pray for our leaders in Washington, that your Spirit might guide them set an example for our country and the world to work together rather than against one another.

We pray for our country, that we may seek the places where we share commonality and seek to repair the divisions that are tearing us apart.

And we pray for ourselves, that we might continue on this journey, learning the lessons you offer, seeking the fullness of your perfection, and live as you would have us live.

Dear people of God, what else, and who else, should we pray for?

*** Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Concluding Prayer

Inspiring Word,
move over the chaos within me,
calling forth form and order,
that I may know you in my shaping,
and in the shaping,
surrender my life to yours.

Illuminating Word,
pierce the darkness within me,
calling forth insight and understanding,
that I may know you in my seeing,
and in seeing,
follow the way of your kingdom.

Incarnate Word,
indwell the life within me,
calling forth passion and purpose,
that I may know you in my living,
and in living,
embody you for the world.

The Benediction

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

Closing Hymn: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Sung by all

Sing along: Christmas is coming

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Passing of the Peace

Time for Check-in