

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:
O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We confess that we have worshiped too many other gods.
We have devoted ourselves to all too many different values.
Turn our hearts to you again!**
- P** O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We confess that we have visited all too many sanctuaries.
We have tried to find the sources of life in all too many other places.
Turn our hearts to you again!**
- P** O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, be the God of your people today!
- C** **We turn to you, and to you alone, to be our God, our only God.
Forgive our sins. Give us spiritual integrity. Give us wholeness and holiness.
Answer us in the name of Christ, for he has promised to intercede for us.
It is in him that we pray in the fellowship of his body.
Amen.**
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from John 3:
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
- C** Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 111

- P** Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- C** **Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

- P** Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- C** **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
- P** He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
- C** **He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**
- P** The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- C** **They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- P** He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
- C** **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Hymn #387

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts; tune: George Frideric Handel; text & tune: public domain

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayer

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn #374

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook; tune: *Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae*, 1582; text & tune: public domain

Distribution Hymn

Before the Throne of God Above



Be-fore the throne of God ab - ove I have a strong and per - fect
When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me of the guilt with -
Be-hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous -



plca, a great High Priest whose name is love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, up - ward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my
ness, the great un - change - a - ble "I Am", the King of glo - ry and of



me. My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - iour died my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. One with Him - self I can - not die. my soul is pur - chased with His



heart; I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can
free, for God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
Him and par - don me, to look on Him and par - don me.
Sav - iour and my God, with Christ, my Sav - iour and my God.

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