

St. Paul's Christmas Services



Online Guide

[Christmas Eve: December 24, 2020 | 7:00 pm](#)

[Christmas Day: December 25, 2020 | 10:30 am](#)

[First Sunday of Christmas: December 27, 2020 | 9:30 am](#)

[Celebration of The Epiphany: January 3, 2020 | 9:30 am](#)

Christmas Eve: Lessons & Carols
December 24, 7:00 pm

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Timothy Johnson

Tom Stone, euphonium & Dr. Larry Crummer, piano

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in our communities.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

Almighty God, bless us with your divine grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and may the King of Angels bring us to a joyful reunion above. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Genesis 3: 8 - 15

The first man and woman meet God

Carol

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Pete Smyth, soloist, with St. Paul's Festival Choir

Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine, Oh night divine

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 - 7

The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of The Messiah

Carol

What Child Is This?

Arr. Dr. Larry Crummer

Veronica Takach, Deborah Webster, soloists, with St. Paul's Festival Choir

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Third Lesson

Micah 5: 2 - 5

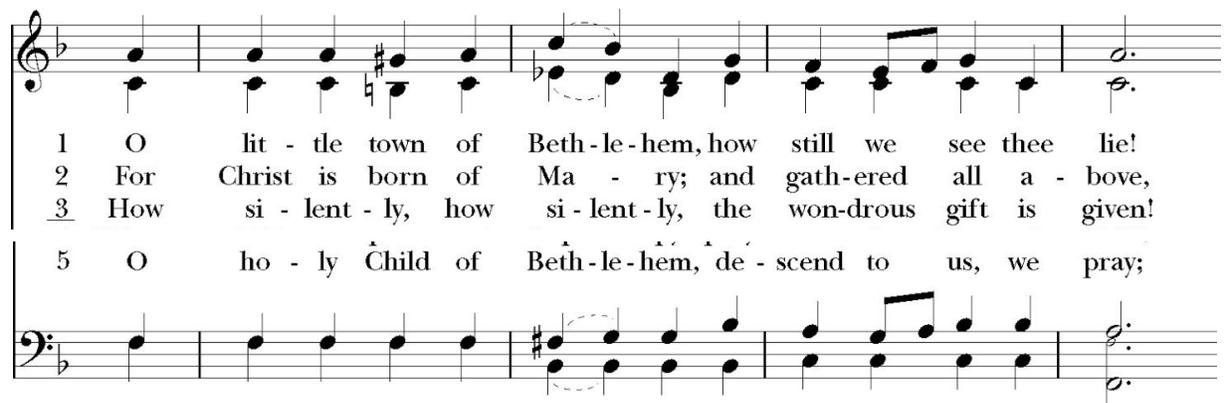
Bethlehem is named as the birthplace of the Savior

Carol

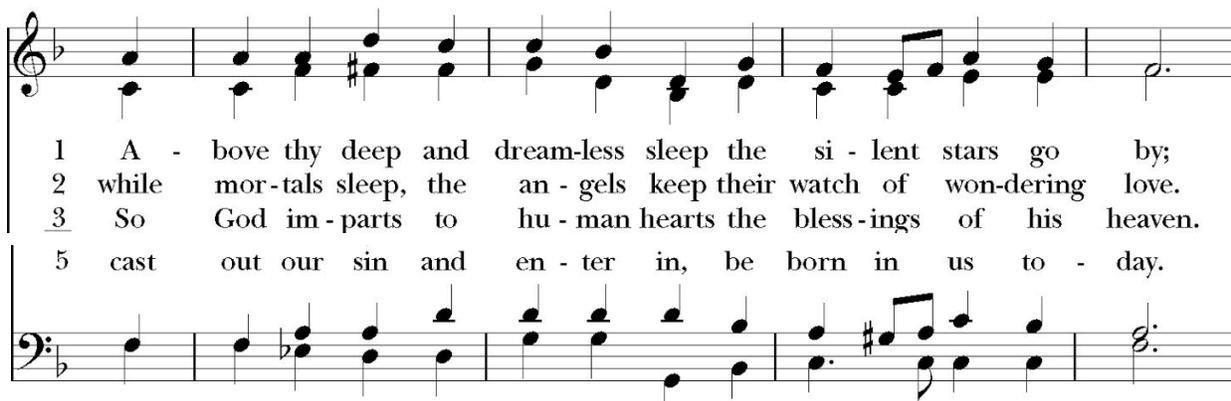
Hymn 79 verses 1-3, 5

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1: 26 - 35, 38

Mary

The angel Gabriel greets the Virgin

Carol

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Deborah Webster, soloist

Ave Maria...Gratia plena.. Dominus tecum
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus
 Et benedictus fructus ventris...Tui, Jesus
 Sancta Maria...Mater Dei
 Ora pro nobis peccatoribus .
 Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
 Blessed art thou among women,
 And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 Pray for us sinners,
 Now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 1, 3 - 7

The birth of Jesus

Carol

Methodist Hymnal 217: Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;
close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky
bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

Shepherds and Angel, on to Bethlehem go to the manger

Carol

Were You There On That Christmas Night?
Lloyd Larson

Natalie Sleeth/arr.

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
When the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed him King,
With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed as they praised him aloud at his birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?

Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
The salvation of the world begun?
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
When the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Were you there?

Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2: 1 - 11

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus

Carol

Hymn 111

Silent Night

Stille Nacht



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Silent Night'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 'Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake, Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,'.

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Eighth Lesson

Hebrews 1: 1 - 12

God speaks through his Son

Carol

Sing Alleluia, Allelu!

Mary Goetze

Deborah Webster, Laura Williams, Rosey Williams, Taylor Williams, soloists

Sing alleluia, allelu! O, sing alleluia allelu!

Baby born in Bethlehem on this day. Sing alleluia, allelu!

Alleluia! Sing alleluia, allelu! O, sing alleluia allelu!

Sheep and shepherds saw a star on this day! Sing alleluia, allelu!

Alleluia! Sing alleluia, allelu! O, sing alleluia allelu!

Sing alleluia, allelu! O, sing alleluia allelu!

Sing a song and celebrate on this day! Sing alleluia, allelu!

Alleluia! Sing alleluia, allelu! O, sing alleluia allelu!

Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1 - 14

The word became flesh...The true light that gives light.

Carol

Hymn 100 verses 1-2, 4

Joy to the World

Antioch

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

Welcome & Announcements

Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant 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 forever. **Amen.**

Closing Collect

The Blessing

Postlude

A Great Light

Lloyd Larson

St. Paul's Festival Choir

The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!
The people living in darkness on them a light will shine!
And the glory of God shall be shown, the will of God made known.
The people walking in darkness shall see a great light.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
And the government shall be on his shoulders,
And the government shall be on his shoulders,
He shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!

St. Paul's Choir: *Soprano:* Dimitra Loomos, Karen Smyth, Veronica Takach *Alto:* Sue Phalen, Deborah Webster, Laura Williams *Tenor:* Peter Banwell, Anne Benefield, Tom Tchong, *Bass:* Lyle Morton, Peter Smyth

St. Paul's Instrumentalist: Tom Stone, euphonium

Sound and Video: Tom Cheng and Deborah Webster

Organ and Piano, Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Larry Crummer

Christmas Day
December 25, 10:30 am

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

**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.**

Hymn of Praise

Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of woman: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12

A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Here ends the Reading.

Hymn

79 verses 1-3, 5

O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Gospeler 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.

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

The Homily with a Nativity Play

Intercession Prayers

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering & Anthem

Announcements

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Services

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech**

A Prayer Book for the Armed

you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 9:30 am

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

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.

Hymn of Praise

Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

Here ends the Reading.

Psalm

147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Gospeler 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.

Gospeler
People

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Request a Hymn

Intercession Prayers

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Announcements

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

A Prayer Book for the Armed

Services

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in

glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Celebration of the Epiphany
January 3, 2021, 9:30 am

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Here ends the Reading.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *

and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Nicene 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.

Intercessions

Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.**

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Offering & Anthem

Announcements

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Services

Celebrant Let us pray.

A Prayer Book for the Armed

All In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude