



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

SAINT MATTHEW

Welcoming all, Growing in God

Serving our Neighbor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday

After

Christmas

December 26, 2021

8:00 am 10:30 am

Welcome to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

All are welcome here. Our liturgy is a celebration of God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ. All are welcome to share in Jesus' sacred meal of communion.

Greeting

Processional Hymn Joy to the World
p. 100 verses 1,2, and 4;
1982 Blue Hymnal

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

All 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

Gloria (spoken at 8:00 am and sung at 10:30)
Blue Hymnal S-277

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.

Presiding-Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Presiding-Celebrant Let us pray

Hidden God, who made the face of Moses shine with the gift of your friendship: teach us the law of love, carried by breath of spirit and planted in hearts of flesh that we might be children again and the world restored to you; through Jesus Christ, the Glory of God.

People Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

(A reading from the Book of 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147 (The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 147. We will read the psalm responsively by whole verse. The congregation's part is printed in bold)

1 Hallelujah!

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.

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars and calls them all

by their names.

5 Great 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.

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

8 He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.

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!

Second Lesson

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

(Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians)

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

Clergy

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. (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.

Presiding-Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily Fr. John Leech, Priest Associate
Clergy and people **The Nicene Creed** (BCP 358)

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

Intercessor Lord of all power and might, let us just not suppose you to be in our company, but seek you out until we find you and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**
To each petition, we respond: **Lord, we seek you and your love; be known among us.**

Intercessor We rejoice that we are created in your image, that we are called to be your sons and daughters. Free us from racism and any other prejudice that defiles us. May the church at all times reveal your glory and lead many to the glorious liberty that is for the children of God. We pray for all who teach the faith and each of us as we are called to share the faith. We pray for all seekers and all who long for you. **Lord we seek, you and your love; be known among us.**

Intercessor We give thanks for our homes and loved ones, for those who have sought us out when we have gone astray, for those who accepted us even when we ignored their advice. We pray for all families where there is tension and lack of trust, for all who are anxious about loved ones at this time. **Lord, we seek you and your love; be known among us.**

Intercessor We remember those who have gone astray and cannot find their way back. We pray for street children and those separated from their loved ones through war. We pray for children needing care and

those in the hospital, for all who feel unloved or unwanted. We remember especially any who have lost a child or a loved one this week. **Lord, we seek you and your love; be known among us.**

We pray for our loved ones who are departed as they experience your eternal kingdom where sorrow and pain are no more. **Lord we seek you and your love; be known among us.**

Presiding-Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Confession of Sin (BCP p. 360)

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

Silence
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.

Presiding-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**

The Peace (BCP p. 360)

Presiding-Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presiding-Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn **Instrumental**

Presentation Hymn

All Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer II

(Scottish BCP)

Presiding- Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presiding- Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presiding- Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presiding-Celebrant

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:

Sanctus (spoken)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Presiding-Celebrant

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks and gave it to them, saying:

“Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son’s command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ’s Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new

creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray Jesus’ prayer in whatever language we are most comfortable:

All 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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

(BCP p. 364)

Presiding-Celebrant

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Presiding-Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

Be Known to Us, O Christ
Lindquist Chant

Post-Communion Prayer

(BCP p. 365)

Presiding-Celebrant Let us pray:

All: Lord, may we be wakeful at sunrise to begin a new day for you; cheerful at sunset for having done our work for you; thankful at moonrise and under star shine for the beauty of your universe; and may we give what is in us to add to your great world. Amen.

The Blessing

Presiding-Celebrant

May the peace of Jesus Christ, Holy Child of God, always encourage you to remember you are a child of God; and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and within you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional

Go Tell It on the Mountain
p. 99; 1982 Blue Hymnal

Dismissal

(BCP p. 366)

Clergy

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

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!