

ST JOSEPH'S

EPISCOPAL • CHURCH

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020 9:30AM

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Processional - Hymnal #94

While Shepherds Watched

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

6. "All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant and People

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 - Hymnal #96

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? *Refrain*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

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

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.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 147:13-21

Laudate Dominum

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

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.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn - Hymnal #84

Love Came Down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

Before the Gospel reading

Deacon 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.

After the Gospel reading

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Ann B. Barker

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.

Prayers of the People - Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant and People

Dear God, we give you thanks for Deacon Bobbie's ministry among us. We thank you for her gifts in worship and pastoral care. We are especially grateful for the way she held us together during the interim time. Her strong faith and hope have been an example for all of us. We ask that you continue to bless Bobbie as she retires from being an active deacon. Give her joy and happiness, and guide her with your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant

Confession

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

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Peace

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

Doxology (*After the elements are prepared.*)

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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 – S125

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

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant

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

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

Celebrant and People

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant and People

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787).

The Celebrant invites the people to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional - *Hymnal #87*

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *(Refrain)*

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *(Refrain)*

Dismissal *The congregation responds: Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Announcements

January Alms

January alms will go to Helping In His Name Ministries, Inc, also known as The Food Pantry. This non-profit organization has been providing temporary, emergency help to those in need since 1990. No one with a legitimate need is refused help.

A big way to support The Food Pantry is by bringing in donations of food and/or personal hygiene items during the month of January. Since we only have one service, we can't really hold our annual Souper Bowl competition. However, we do have a challenge! We have set the goal for our congregation to work together to donate **2021 lbs** of goods to The Food Pantry! This is a lofty goal, but we can do it.

Donations can be made at the church after service on Sunday or Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day. If you would like someone to pick up your donations, please contact the church and arrangements will be made. The Food Pantry needs us more than ever this year!

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan 10 following the service. More information will be forthcoming.

Service Request

Recording for the service continues until after the postlude is finished. If you are gathering your belongings during this time, please stay quiet until Friedemann is finished playing so that voices do not record.

Regathering

Be sure to register for our services online. You can do it on the website or Facebook or from the email you received earlier this week. If you cannot work the technology, call a member of our regathering team to register (Marcie Hale, 404-314-5120; Elizabeth Hayes, 404-509-4831; Sheryl Parsons, 770-957-3204; Art Richard, 706-372-6782). There is no restriction on how often you can come.

Visitation

Rev. Ann is available for outside visits at home or at church. If you would like to make an appointment, please call her at 703-622-2373. If she doesn't answer, leave a message and she will call you back.

Prayers of the People

We would like to offer up your petitions to God during our worship service. If you have a prayer request, please submit it on the website (stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer). We will pull a list on Thursday at 10am, and the reader will read them on Sunday during the Prayers of the People. If you want someone mentioned for longer than one Sunday, please submit another request the following week.

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