

Grace Episcopal Church
The First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 26, 2021
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II - 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain – R. Lau

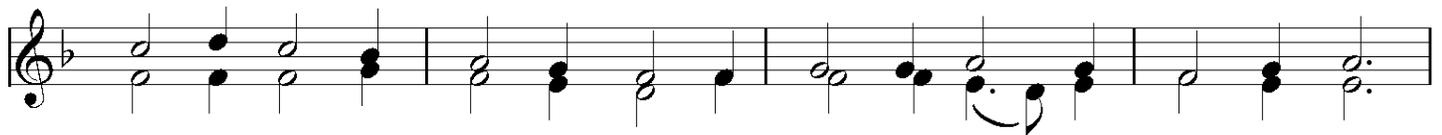
PROCESSIONAL HYMN #107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

Lector 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.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147 (*responsively, by whole verse*)

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!**

Lector 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.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #88 (vv. 1-4)

Sing, O sing, this blessed morn



1 Sing, O sing, this bless - ed morn, un - to us a child is born,
 2 God from God, and Light from Light, comes with mer - cies in - fi - nite,
 3 God with us, Em - man - u - el, deigns for ev - er now to dwell;
 4 God comes down that we may rise, lift - ed by him to the skies;



1 un - to us a son is given, God him - self comes down from heaven.
 2 from high heaven he comes to earth, one with us in hu - man birth.
 3 he on Ad - am's fall - en race sheds the full - ness of his grace.
 4 Christ is born for us that we born a - gain in him may be.

Refrain



Sing, O sing, this bless-ed morn, Je - sus Christ to - day is born.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

Celebrant 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.

-- The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

A period of silence is kept.

The Reverend Edward Kelaher

358 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.

We pray O Lord, for your deliverance from the pandemic afflicting your people everywhere, especially those who are sick, those who have died, and those who mourn. *Silence*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass and **Josey** Parker,

and those with special needs:

Leslie Bell, **Jeff** Check, **Emily** Pate, **Mark** Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Anita** Ewbank, **Renee** Ewbank, **Mark** Frye, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Holly** Gray, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Virginia** Hartzog, **Matt** Haynes, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Joyce** Metters, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Gilliam** Nicholson, **Page** Onorato, **Melissa** Owens, **Lynn** Parsley, **Doris** Reece, **Libby** Robert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Tommy** Shaw, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Robin** Sink, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Patty** Sori, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Kathy** Watson, **Courtney** Weller, **Flynn** Williams, **Mary** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

Lord in Your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Silence

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

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.**

Please stand if you are able

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Twos in the Moon of Wintertime – D. Lasky

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN #112 (v. 4)

In the bleak midwinter

*What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.*

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 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people may stand or kneel

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;

The Celebrant continues

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 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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

364 **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.**

364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Please stand if you are able

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

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*The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to be a welcoming community of faith
guided by the life and teachings of Jesus.*

In light of this mission we strive:

- *to promote spiritual growth and healing through worship, study, and fellowship.*
- *to sustain a mutually supportive community*
- *to invite and include all who would seek and serve God with us.*
- *to serve those beyond our parish.*
- *to advocate social, environmental, and economic justice.*



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The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Joan Clodfelter, Organist & Choir Director
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

Tommy Black - Sr. Warden

Miles Cleckley - Treasurer

Linda Cox - Clerk

Belinda MacKinstry

Wes Allred

Pam Harvey - Jr. Warden

Sandra Husted

Mark Petruzzi

Walter Beeker

David Jones

Cathy Riggan

Robin Sink

The Vestry person of the month for December is Walter Beeker.



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