

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020

11 A.M. ANTE COMMUNION RITE II

Prelude

Opening Acclamation	351 (prayer book)	
Opening Hymn	<i>Once in a royal David's city (v. 1,2,6)</i>	102 (hymnal)
Confession	352 (prayer book)	
Gloria	S280 (hymnal)	
Collect of the Day	213 (prayer book)	

I reading—Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: A reading from 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: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 147

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*

there is no limit to his wisdom.  
The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.  
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.  
He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;  
He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.  
He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.  
He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;  
But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.  
Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.  
He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

II reading—Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: A reading from the First 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: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

Gospel—John 1:1-18

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

People: Glory to you, O 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.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily		The Rev. Catherine Carpenter
The Nicene Creed		358 (prayer book)
Prayers of the People - Form II		385 (prayer book)
Anthem	<i>In the bleak midwinter</i>	112 (hymnal)
The Lord's Prayer		364 (prayer book)
The Peace		360 (prayer book)
The Blessing		

*Celebrant:* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn	<i>O little town of Bethlehem (v. 1-3, 5)</i>	78 (hymnal)
Dismissal		366 (prayer book)
Postlude		

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE— FORM II

Intercessor: Let us pray for Christ's church and the world.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; For our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop DeDe for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. In our parish for Tiffany Zacholl, Brian & Terry Fancher. For parishes in our diocese, especially St. John's Church in Speedsville and St. Alban's Church in Syracuse. In our companion diocese, for San Juan Evangelista in San Salvador.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, especially Gordon Tall, John Rogers, Dottie Divers, Garth Foster, Agnes Morgan, Fern Butler, Dottie Carrie, Rahel Reger, Donny Witkowski, Tom Mangan, Joyce Rowan, Jason, Bill, Steven, Merle, Sharon, Linda, Linda W., Becky, Alice, Debbie, James, Rosalee, Dawn, Lila, Missy, Bill, Erin, Penny, Ann, Sue, Mary Ann, Barb, Anna, Jerry, Isabella, Neva, Jeannie, and those we now name, silently or aloud.

*Silence*

the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed especially Dottie Divers, Gail Kozikowski, and those we now name, silently or aloud,

*Silence*

Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The officiant adds a concluding collect*



GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To be a visible sign of Christ's love,  
seeking and serving Christ in all persons.*

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