



# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:30 A.M. AND 9:30 A.M.

**Gathering Music** (*The gathering music at 9:30 a.m. will be sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen.*)

### Welcome and Announcements

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### Opening Acclamation

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

**And blessed be his 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.**

**Song of Praise** (*9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen*)

#### 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.**

#### The Lessons

#### A reading from Isaiah (61:10–62:3)

*Commentary:*

*Chapters 60-62 of Isaiah's prophecy are all about Israel's future glory under the Lord. Israel's joy in that day will be like that of a bride on her wedding day, beautiful in her adornments. Finally, the harvest of righteousness that the Lord planted in Israel will come to fruition, resulting in praise from the whole earth. Although they thought He had been unresponsive to their prayers for deliverance, God assured his people that He would keep His promises to provide righteousness and salvation for them. God will do this for the love of His people. The new name God would bestow upon Israel will signify the nation's new character and status.*

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 147:13–21** (9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen) chant: John Sullivan

ANTIPHON: "How good it is to sing praises to our God."

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.

ANTIPHON

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.

ANTIPHON

He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?

ANTIPHON

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!

ANTIPHON

### **A reading from Galatians (3:23–25; 4:4–7)**

*Commentary:*

*The Mosaic Law was a disciplinarian for Israel, but it was never intended to provide salvation for anyone. The Law was regulatory and it was revelatory; it was meant to lead Israel to Christ by showing the people that human righteousness was inadequate and flawed; only God could provide the righteousness they needed. By faith in Jesus Christ, we are justified, meaning we are declared 'not guilty' by God, not on the basis of anything we have done, but on the basis of what Jesus has done for us. Not only that, Jesus redeemed us, delivering us from bondage to the Law and into our new status as children of God. The Holy Spirit, sent by God to indwell believers, encourages and motivates us to approach God as our loving Father.*

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.**

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:1–18)**

*Priest* 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.

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

## **The Homily**

The Reverend Pierce Klemmt

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

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**

*The response to each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

## **Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Officiant 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.

## **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Solo:** (9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **Sanctus**      *(Celebrant and People)*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

*The Celebrant says in the midst of the prayer*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **The Fraction**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## **The Communion of the People.**

**Communion Music** *(9:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

## **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**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant: The Reverend Chris Hamby*

# MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

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