



THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 2 JANUARY 2022

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer.

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

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. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

p. 324

The Collect of the Day

p. 162

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Ephesians (1:3—6,15—19)

The Holy Bible (NRSV) p. 1066

Commentary:

One of Paul's central themes in his letter to the Ephesians is the unification of individuals of all types into one united church. The letter begins with a song of praise for what God has done for the believer. For Israel, God's promises were mostly physical, but for the church, God's promised blessings are mainly spiritual and they are received by faith. The spiritual blessings that have come to us are the work of all three members of the Trinity. Having reviewed his readers' blessings in Christ, Paul next prayed that they would appreciate and appropriate these good things in their own lives.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The Nicene Creed

p. 327

The Prayers of the People

p. 328

Confession of Sin

p. 330

The Peace

p. 332

The Holy Communion (*Gluten-free wafers available*)

Eucharistic Prayer I

p. 333

Sanctus

p. 334

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 337

Prayer of Humble Access

p. 337

The Communion of the People

p. 338

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 339

The Blessing

p. 339

The Dismissal

p. 339

Celebrant: The Reverend Phillip Craig, Jr.

Preacher: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Daniel Harris Penton, Frances Dunn Penton, Henry Edgar Longley.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

 [@stjamesp](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp)  [@stjamesparish](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesparish)

stjamesp.org