



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Kyrie

p. 324

The Collect of the Day

p. 161

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Isaiah 61:10–62:3

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 678

Commentary: Chapters sixty through sixty-two of Isaiah's prophecy are all about Israel's future glory under the Lord. Finally, the harvest of righteousness that the Lord planted in Israel would come to fruition, resulting in praise from the whole earth. God assured His people that although they thought He had been unresponsive to their prayers for deliverance, He would keep His promises to provide righteousness and salvation for them. God will do this for the love of His own. The new name God will 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.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 147:13–21

read responsively by whole verse

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!

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

The Nicene Creed

p. 327

The Prayers of the People

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The Peace

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Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer I

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Sanctus

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The Lord's Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers available upon request

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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The Blessing

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.**

Puer nobis nascitur

p. 339

- **IGNITE!: SKI TRIP MEETING**

TODAY AT ST. JAMES

MEALS ON WHEELS

Serve on New Year's Eve!

If you are interested in serving on one of our future dates, please contact Molly Roush at mollyrousb@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOM: SERVING MEALS AT GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

January dates to serve include: January 2, 16, & 25th

If you are interested in serving with Men on a Mission, please contact Brian McMerty at bmcmetry@arris.partners.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER EXPERIENCE SIGN UP

Signups open January 3, 2024

One of our St. James traditions is the Guardian Angel Prayer experience. We invite adults to take time this Lent to pray for a young person in our parish. If you agree to be a "Guardian Angel" during Lent, you will receive information about the young person who will be assigned to you. Please remember to keep your identity as their "angel" a secret and to pray for them each day. Complete the form online or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org to sign up!

FOYER GROUPS

Last day to sign up: January 7, 2024

The Foyer Groups are getting ready to begin a new season. Formal requests to join a foyer group should be made prior to the end of the day on January 7th. Later this January new groups will be announced. All leaders are asked to touch base with their members and plan one or two gathering this spring. For those who have never been in a Foyer Group, they are small groups of parish members who gather about every six weeks throughout the year. The gatherings can be dinner at a restaurant or in members' homes, brunch after church, a dinner at the beach or whatever the group and host want to plan. It's a wonderful way to get to know parish members in a smaller setting. With our growing church, this is a golden opportunity to socialize and have lots of fun. Contact: Sheila Osann (osannshe@aol.com) or Nina Inge (ninabet55@gmail.com)

EPIPHANY MINI-RETREAT: FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

Saturday, January 13 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Lippitt Room

What/Who is the light we are following? What gives us light for the journey and hope in the darkness? What gifts do we have to offer? Through poetry, Scripture, and prayer practices, we will explore these questions. Epiphany gives us the opportunity to consider. Men, women, parishioners, friends, younger and older are welcome. Registration is requested and is available on the church's website and e-newsletters. Childcare will be available upon request. Contact Linda Murchison, lindamurchison65@gmail.com

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS: CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Wednesday Mornings: Coming Soon!

We invite you to stay tuned for a special time of contemplation, crafting, and connecting with the arts and the Bible. Watch for details regarding Bible and the Arts and the Creative Connections in future publications!

PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Returning February 1, 2024

Want to know more about the Episcopal tradition? Or maybe you need a refresher about the whys of our shared worship? We invite you to join us for Praying Shapes Believing! This seven-week series will help you take a deep dive into the traditions of our faith and how they feed us spiritually. This series also doubles as our Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation class. If you'd like to sign up or have questions about this offering, please reach out to the Rev. Gray Hodsdon at gray@stjamesp.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Number of Pledges: 322

Total Pledge amount: \$1,378,115

It's not too late to pledge to support St. James Parish in 2024. Visit our website or call the church office to participate.

stjamesp.org/pledge/



Goal: 350 Pledges | 92% Complete

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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