

# First Sunday After Christmas 2020 Ante Communion Service

Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

THENBA

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;*

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God from God, Light from Light, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; very God, begotten, not created; [Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; [Refrain]*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*People*

**Gracious God, have mercy on us.**

**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* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People*

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, and glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray: 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.**

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

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.**

**Psalms 147:13-21**

***Laudate Dominum***

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!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

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.**

**Gospel John 1:1-18**

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

**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.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**Away in the Manger**

*Soundiva*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.*

*The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.*

*I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

**Nicene Creed**            *Said by all.*

**We believe in one God, the Father 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  
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 worshipped 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**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

*Reader:* Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; draw us, your church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the church and the people who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence; fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' light, and kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our president, and all in authority, to his brightness. Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; bring us your peace, and bring an end to and terror and strife.  
Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.  
Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.  
Lord, in your mercy,            **Hear our prayer.**

As the holy family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal; give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine on them.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For those who are sick, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

For all those who suffer from Covid19.

For those who have died especially \_\_\_\_\_.

O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this night, and of your Son's incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus our Christ we pray. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.**

**I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.**

**Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

### **Blessing**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, among you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

#### **Joy to the World**

#### *Concordia*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

**Dismissal**

St. John's Episcopal-Lutheran Church  
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The Rev. Cheryl Fox, Pastor and Vicar