

Grace Episcopal Church



First Sunday after Christmas

9 AM Holy Eucharist

December 29, 2024

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Prelude

Opening Hymn

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen v.1-4

1982 Hymnal #105

Blessed are you, Holy and Living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

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

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High v.1

1982 Hymnal #96

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

The Lessons

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 147

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *

and calls them all by their names.

- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 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!

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from the 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 Song

Of the Father’s Love Begotten v. 1-3

1982 Hymnal #82

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

Gospeller 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Lin Weber

The Nicene Creed

Sung to the tune Ode to Joy, 1982 Hymnal 376

**We believe in God almighty,
author of all things that be,
Maker of the earth and heavens,
Keeper of the sky and sea.
We believe in God’s son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.**

**We believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried—
True Life there had truly died.
We believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God’s right hand.
He will come to judge and save.**

**We believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
One church catholic, one church holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;
in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting.
This the faith that we have claimed.**

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

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

Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God of all of Creation

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo

WLP #785

¡Santo, santo, santo,

Holy, holy, holy,

mi corazón te adora!

my heart, my heart adores you!

Mi corazón te sabe decir:

My heart is glad to say the words,

santo eres Señor.

you are holy, Lord

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This

is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem

What Child Is This

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Jesus is our host; all are welcome at God's table. To receive communion, come forward at the usher's instructions and kneel or stand at the altar rail. You may either hold on to the bread and "intinct" (dip) it into the bowl of wine when it comes to you, or consume the bread and drink from the cup. Communion in one kind (bread only) is a full communion; gluten free wafers are available if needed. If you are unable to come forward and would like to receive communion in your pew, please let an usher know. Children and infants are welcome to receive communion, either the bread or wine or both, as long as their parents are comfortable. If you or your child prefers to come forward to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Music At Communion

Communion Hymn

Go Tell It On the Mountain v. 1-3

1982 Hymnal #99

Post-Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 1-2, 5

1982 Hymnal #79

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Guest Pianist Rev. Dan C. Damon

I Saw Three Ships is Dan Damon's latest jazz Christmas album, featuring his setting of the traditional English carol as the title track. With new lyrics Dan reminds us of the need to care for the poor at Christmas and all year. Enjoy these jazz settings of traditional carols plus original carols by Shirley E. Murray, Saya Ojiri, and Dan Damon. The music is available from Hope Publishing Company. Download from Amazon or listen on your preferred streaming services.

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Mark Linder	John Sales
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Craig Bond	Edie Kausch

If you would like our intercessors to pray for you or someone else, please call Helen Christianson at 707-963-4157, or email us at Helen@grace-episcopal.org. All requests are kept confidential.