

**SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DECEMBER 27, 2015 - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II — 10:00 A.M.**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

*The opening music offers a time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all devices.*

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *French Noëls*      Louis Claude D'Aquin

*Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

*Celebrant*      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
*People*      **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMNAL #93**      *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*      REGENT SQUARE

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**      Book of Common Prayer p. 355

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**      (Hymn #96, vss. 1 & 3)

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*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.

*People*      **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**      **Isaiah 61:10-62:3**      (*seated*)

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: 13-21**

- 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!**

**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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able, for the Alleluia verse and the Gospel.*

**Antiphon**      *Cantor, then All*

**Verse**      *Cantor*

*(Verse appointed for the day)*      *All repeat Antiphon*

*Gospeller*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**GOSPEL**      **John 1:1-18**

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.**

**SERMON**

*A period of silence is observed following the sermon.*

**NICENE CREED**      (*standing, if able*)      Book of Common Prayer p. 358

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**      (*standing or kneeling*)

*Reader*      Incarnate God,

*People*      **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader*      Gracious God:

*All*      **By your love you have called us to proclaim with joy  
the good news of your Son: So build us up in the knowledge and love of  
Him, that we may welcome all people into this community of faith, and  
show forth our service to you in our service to others; through Jesus  
Christ Our Lord. Amen.**      (*Collect for St. John's*)

**THE PEACE**      (*standing, if able*)

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

*People*      **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with those around you.*

WELCOME (Please be seated.)

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are invited to share at the Lord's table. At the altar railing you may stand or kneel to receive the bread and the wine. You may drink from the cup or touch the bread to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing you may indicate so by crossing your arms. The common loaf is gluten-free.

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ANTHEM *Laudamus Te* W. A. Mozart  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we adore thee, we glorify thee.

PRESENTATION (sung by all, standing if able) OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C (The prayer may be followed in the BCP on p. 369.)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*People* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People* **By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS **S130** (in front section of hymnal) F. Schubert  
(sung by all)

(Please remain standing or kneel, according to your custom.)

*Celebrant* And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, ... Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*People* **We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant* Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; . . .  
. . . that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*People* **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.**

*Celebrant* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and th Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

*People* **AMEN.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

*All* **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.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the People of God.

### DISTRIBUTION

#### COMMUNION MUSIC

SOLO *Ave Verum* W. A. Mozart

HYMNAL #109 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

HYMNAL #105 *God Rest You Merry* GOD REST YOU MERRY

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (said by all, kneeling or standing.)

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members  
of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

(Please stand, as able, for the closing hymn.)

HYMNAL #99 *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* GO, TELL IT ...

### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace.  
May the child of Nazareth bring you joy.  
May the man of Galilee bring you strength;  
the Christ of Calvary bring you courage;  
and the ascended Lord a foretaste of his glory.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and  
Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

*People* **Amen.**

*Deacon* Our worship here is ended; now let our service begin.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY *Go, Tell It On the Mountain!* Emma Lou Diemer

(You are invited to move forward to the choir stalls for the final music.)

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### TODAY WE PRAY WITH

Don, Star, Bert, Wimpy, Mae, Kathleen, Linda, Glen, Norma, Ann, Mildred,  
Joan, Patricia, Thelma, Pat, Steve, Ginny, Jack, Camille, Susan, Pat, Christopher,  
Amy, Annie, and those you would add.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

In thanksgiving for the life of Jerry Wagner, Cynthia S. MacIntosh

### ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE TODAY

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER *The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller*  
READER *Shirley Sailors, Keith Davis*  
VERGER *Joan Potter*  
ORGANIST *Jayson R. Engquist*  
SOLOIST *Jessica Bandelin*  
ACOLYTES *Tim Krall, Caroline Krall, Linnea Krall, Sabine Krall*  
ALTAR GUILD *Diane Power, Paige Hagstrom, Sarah K. Smith,  
Sabine Krall, Ginny Schauss, Terri Fishel*

USHERS & GREETERS *George & Mason Kinkead, Diane Power, Sally Sand,  
Cammie Beattie, Ella Slade, Judy Southwick*

COFFEE HOUR *Marilyn Conklin*

*Please visit the St. John's website - [stjohnsstpaul.org](http://stjohnsstpaul.org) - for more information.*