



*The First Sunday  
After Christmas*

Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension

December 26, 2021 ✦ 10:30 am

MUSIC FOR GATHERING & CELEBRATION

THE WORD OF GOD

*Please stand to sing the hymn.*

HYMN 99: Blue Hymnal            Go tell it on the mountain            Go Tell It on the Mountain

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth rang out  
The angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says:*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 355

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 S280: Blue Hymnal    *Glory to God (Gloria in Excelsis)*

Robert Powell

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you  
We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

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.**

*Please read together in unison.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

HYMN 324: Blue Hymnal      *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

*Picardy*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence; as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most High!”

*Please remain standing.*

THE 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.**

THE SERMON

*Please be seated.*

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

*Please stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 358

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the 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 again 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 worshiped 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.**

*Please remain standing.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in his light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world, saying: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the churches, that united in life they may be faithful in witness to your Son come among us, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the poor of the earth, for the victims of warfare, that their mourning may be turned into joy, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all families, that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the leaders of nations, that they may turn from ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our bishops, Wayne Smith and George Sumner and for all bishops, that they may rejoice in your mercy and faithfully teach the greatness of your coming among us, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For this assembly, for the sick and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by the light and grace of your Incarnate Word. We invite you to name either aloud, or in the silence of your heart your prayers of intercession for yourself and for others, Merciful God,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, and of all the witnesses of the Incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All: Most merciful God,  
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: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

*The Offertory is a time for us to offer ourselves, souls and bodies, and gifts of money, bread, wine, music and meditation to the Lord. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the clergy. The people stand while the offerings are presented.*

HYMN 101: Blue Hymnal

*Away in a manger*

*Cradle Song*

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*Please stand.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP p. 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Celebrant continues*

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,

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: 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.**

*After the bread is broken, the Celebrant and People sing together:*

HYMN S154

*Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover*

David Hurd

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.

(The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.)

*As you prepare to receive the sacrament, extending both hands indicates you'd like to receive the intincted (dipped into the wine) host (bread). If you prefer to receive the host alone, simply point at the clergy person as they stand before you. Our tradition teaches that if you receive either (bread or wine) you have received in full. If you are attending worship from home, you can find a Prayer for Spiritual Communion on our website under Worship at Home, or click this link: <https://www.ascensiondallas.org/worship-at-ascension>.*

*Please kneel.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 365

Let us pray.

*Silence may follow.*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING OUT OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

## BLESSING

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this night and for ever. **Amen.**

*All stand.*

HYMN 107: Blue Hymnal

*Good Christian friends, rejoice*

*In dulci jubilo*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## THE DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY