



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA
Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Christmas
January 03, 2021

Organ Prelude

Dr. Grant Moss

Welcome and Announcements

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

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

Collect for Purity

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.**

Song of Praise

Gloria in excelsis deo, Gloria in excelsis deo!

Angels we have heard on high

Singing sweetly o'er the plains

And the mountains in reply

Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis deo, Gloria in excelsis deo!

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of rich food, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest
where she may lay her young; *by the side of your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.

**4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; * and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; * he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold * from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts, * happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting+

The Nicene Creed *recited in unison* **BCP pg 358-359**

**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.**

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.**

Prayers of the People *(adapted and expanded from prayers written for this day by the Rev. Dr. Richard Einerson, retired UCC minister)*

Eternal God, as we come to a new year and ponder the meaning of time,
we pray that you would be with us as we are about the task of numbering our days.
As we do so, may we gain a heart of wisdom. As we reflect upon all of the endless
possibilities of creation, we are filled with awe that you called the universe
into being in love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for your redeeming love made manifest in Jesus the Christ. We are grateful to be members of Christ's body the church, and we pray for our presiding bishop Michael, our bishop Douglas and all ministers.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the justice, compassion, and peace in our land and throughout the world, remembering especially those afflicted by violence, displacement, and injustice.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the needs of our community:
those suffering from illness of mind, body or spirit; those recovering from surgery or illness; those mourning the death of loved ones; those without adequate food, housing and health care; those seeking employment and health care workers and first responders serving in the face of the pandemic.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, Janet, the Brandt family, Betty and Donnie Willard, Norma Keough, Bre, BettyLou DeTurck, Melissa, Vanessa, Jeanette, the Winternitz family, Mary Thurber, Mary Wozniak and her mother Mildred Lindsay, and our Manna guests and volunteers.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant peace and rest to those who have died and lead us all to your dwelling place where we will rejoice with our ancestors to praise you forever.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Sign of Peace

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Music *The Huron Carol*

1. 'Twas in the moon of winter-time, When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitche Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

2. Within a lodge of broken bark, the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high.

Refrain

3. *The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt:*
Refrain

4. *O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy.*
Refrain

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **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, 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 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:

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

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 St. Mary the God-bearer, St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; 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, Gracious God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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.**

Fraction Anthem

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(adapted from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people and your Church,
we delight to offer to you praise and thanksgiving.
We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection;
we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today
in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually
into our hearts. Heal and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Christ,
and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us,
in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer *in unison*

**Almighty and ever-living 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.**

Christmas 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, mother of us all,
be among you and those you love, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude Music

Dr. Grant Moss