



SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 5, 2025, 10:00 AM

Prelude

The People stand at the ringing of the bell.

Hymn

The First Noel

Hymnal 1982 #109

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The People join in saying the 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 to God

Hymnal 1982 S 280

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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, thy Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

A reading from 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 fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84:1-8

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.***

A reading Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - - ia.

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

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, in this Christmas season we remember the birth of the one who came to draw all the world to you. Continue to draw us into closer fellowship with you and each other. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give your Spirit to your Church, as you gave it to Mary, that your Christ may be formed in us and that we may bring his grace into this hurting world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son came to be Prince of Peace, grant to the nations of the world a foretaste of the peace he longs to bring. Give us grace to tear down the walls that divide us that we may be one people united under one Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Like us, Jesus knew the fullness of human life, including pain and sorrow. Comfort those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit and give them the joy of life restored. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

By his life among us Jesus opened the way for us to eternal life. We pray to you for those who have died that now rejoice in your nearer presence they may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The angels brought the message of Messiah's birth to the shepherds in the fields. Move us to bring the message of his grace to all who do not yet know him, and to those who have lost their knowledge of him. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son came to proclaim forgiveness of sins, hear us now as we confess our need for pardon. **With confidence in your loving kindness, we confess we have failed to live according to your commandments. We have sought our own will and not yours. Our actions have hurt others and ourselves and have grieved your heart. For the sake of him who came to share our human life, forgive our sins and give us grace to amend our lives according to your gracious will. Amen.**

Presider

God who is rich in mercy offers forgiveness of sins and has given power and commandment to his Church to pronounce forgiveness to all who confess in sincerity and truth. In the name of God I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father; the Son; and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Offertory

As with gladness men of old

Hymnal 1982 #119

Presentation

Refrain
As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

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 people remain standing or kneel

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. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

The Word became flesh

And dwelt among us.

Behold the Word made flesh

Come let us adore him.

Hymn

How bright appears the morning star

Hymnal 1982 #497

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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 and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Hymn

What star is this

Hymnal 1982 #124

Dismissal

Presider God's Word and Sacrament have nourished us to continue our journey.

People ***We will press on toward the call of Christ.***

Presider Our journey is one of service to all.

People ***May we see the face of Christ in all whom we serve.***

Presider Go In peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***With thankful hearts we will go.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For healing: Adriene, Al, Amber, Amy, Arfinn, Arlene, Becky, Bev, Carol, Charles, David, Debbie, Dennis, Diedre, Don, Donna, Doug, Earl, Elsie Claire, Emma, Gwen, Helen, Jake, Jan, Jerry, Joan, Joanna, Joey, John, Judith, Judy, Julie, Karla, Karen, Kate, Kay, Kirsten, Larry, Lee, Leigh, Linda, Lisa, Louise, Lulu, Lynn, Margaret, Marie, Massey, Meg, Mickey, Mike, Milton, Morgan, Ralph, Rebecca, Rita, Ron, Rosellen, Sally, Sandy, Sarah, Shelley, Sherry, Stan, Stephanie, Steve, Sue, Tim, Tony, Tracie, Vera, Wayne and those who care for them.

For those serving in the military: Gerromy, Noel, Taylor, Wayne & those serving with them.

For those in prison: for the prisoners, staff and families of prisoners and staff at Holmes County Jail, Bonifay, FL.

SAINT PAUL'S THIS WEEK

TODAY

- 7:30 am Holy Eucharist
- 9 am Formation Class
- 9 am Choir Practice
- 10 am Holy Eucharist
- 7 pm NA Meeting

MONDAY

- Noon NA Meeting
- 8 pm AA Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 10:30 Pastor Brent's Bible Study
- Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing

- 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm Children's Choir Practice
- 5 pm to 6 pm Choir Practice
- 7 pm NA Open Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7 am Men's Fellowship Group
- 10 am Galileans
- Noon NA Meeting
- 6 pm AA Meeting
- 8 pm AA Open Meeting

SATURDAY

- 10:00 AA Meeting

REMEMBER EMI WHEN YOU SHOP

Tuna, jelly, powdered milk, cake mix and brownie mix.

BLESSING BOX

Our Blessing Box is in need of donations of food and toiletries. Drop off on Sunday's in the Parish Hall or in the office during the week. You are always welcomed to put food & supplies directly into the Blessing Box

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