

St. James Episcopal Church, Westernport
Peter's Episcopal Church, Lonaconing
 December 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas
The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome! We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Current diocesan COVID-19 regulations require us to worship through online services and personal devotions only.

We are asked to remember in our prayers: Shirley, Mary Ellen, Jerry, Rowland, Daniel, Robert, Evonne, Judy, James, Joey, Cara, Pam, Jean, Bev, Betty, Joe, Judy, Gail, Elaine and Bev, and for Kathy, Bob, Andy, Ann, Violet, and Melanie, Joann, John, Pat and Isabel, the residents and care-givers at Piney Valley and Moran Manor Nursing Homes, and those known to us and to God alone.

We pray also for consolation for the family of Norma Broadwater.

If you know of others who should be added to the prayer list, please let one of the clergy know.

Organ Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Sentences

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Celebrant
 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.***

Kyrie *Lord, have mercy upon us;*
Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT for the First Sunday after Christmas

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray together:

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT

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 EPISTLE

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the **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.***

Gradual Music

THE HOLY GOSPEL of our LORD according to John [1:1-18]

People ***Praise 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.

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

Gradual Music

The Sermon

The Rev. John C. Martin, Jr.

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.*

The Prayers of the People, Form VI (BCP, p. 392)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who^[SEP]are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression

.For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Eugene and Robert, our Bishops;
 and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
We are asked to remember in our prayers: (all those on our prayer lists,
 and those known to us and to God alone.

Silence; The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence; The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
 your eternal kingdom, **especially thy servant Norma Broadwater.**

Silence; The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

***Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
 in your compassion forgive us our sins,
 known and unknown,
 things done and left undone;
 and so uphold us by your Spirit
 that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
 to the honor and glory of your Name;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

The Absolution *by Celebrant*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

The peace will be exchanged with respect to social distancing due to the virus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Christmas poinsettias are given in grateful thanksgiving, and in memory of our loved ones.

With our parish churches being closed due to the pandemic, let us remember to be kind to those with whom we live, and to keep tabs on our close neighbors, family, and friends.

Since we cannot receive your offerings in the normal fashion, please do continue to support the needs of St. James' (32 Main Street, Westernport, MD 21562) and St. Peter's (6 St. Peter's Place, Lonaconing, MD 21539) churches by mail, or through the diocesan website, www.episcopalmaryland.org.

Celebrant Let us say together the Doxology:

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

The Holy Communion**The Great Thanksgiving**

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

(Proper Preface for the Incarnation)...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:

Celebrant 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

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,

People and Celebrant

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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Celebrant now receives the Body and Blood of Christ
in the name of all those participating in this service.*

Silence.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People [A Prayer for Spiritual Communion, Episcopal Prayer Book
for the Armed Forces (1988)]

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of

Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing *by Celebrant*

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God***

Rector
Associate Priest
Organists

The Rev. Garrett H. Carskadon
The Rev. John C. Martin, Jr.
Mr. Mark Steiner
The Rev. Tom Hudson