



**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
LESSONS & CAROLS
DECEMBER 28, 2025, 10:30 AM
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

PRELUDE HYMNS (*sung by the congregation - the first 2 verses of the following hymns*)

- #78 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- #102 Once in Royal David's City
- #109 The First Nowell the Angel did Say
- #115 What Child is This

PROCESSIONAL: HYMN #100

Joy to the World

THE GRACE

Celebrant The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, as we celebrate the Christmastide, let us delight in hearing again the message of the angels. Let us see the Christ in and through our lives. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience until the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; for unity within the Church, for reconciliation of matters that disrupt peace and love. Let us never forget our neighbors in need especially the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, those in distant lands, those who feast with our Lord Jesus, and the multitude we cannot name whose hope is in the Word made flesh and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore. **Amen**

THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." The Lord God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

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

HYMN #82, VERSES 1 & 4

Of the Father's Love Begotten

THE SECOND LESSON: GENESIS 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your children all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

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

HYMN #93

Angels from the Realms of Glory

THE THIRD LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and for ever more. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

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

HYMN #89, VERSES 1 & 4*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear***THE FOURTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-35, 38**

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #81*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming***THE FIFTH LESSON: LUKE 2:1, 3-7**

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no

HYMN #101*Away in a Manger***THE SIXTH LESSON: LUKE 2:8-16**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. This

will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

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

HYMN #96, VERSES 1 & 4

Angels, We Have Heard on High

Please stand for the Christmas Gospel

THE SEVENTH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14

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 nor of the will of the flesh nor 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.

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

HOMILY

THE REV. JEAN VARGO

HYMN #83, VERSES 1, 3 & 6

O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition the people respond with “**Lord, hear our prayer**”.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

HYMN #111

Silent Night

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany
(from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Augsburg Fortress 2006*)

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.**

Celebrant It is indeed our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, gracious God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Please stand or kneel if able.

SANCTUS, Hymnal #S124

**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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise made to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, Jesus Christ, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ’s death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

People **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, world without end. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER, BCP 364

**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 BCP 364

FRACTION ANTHEM: HYMNAL #S161

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC: HYMN #87

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Please stand or kneel if able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

RECESSIONAL: HYMN #99

Go Tell it on the Mountain

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: JOY TO THE WORLD (FROM NATIVITY SUITE)

Wilbur Held

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