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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2, 2022

8:15 A.M.



THE RIGHT REVEREND C. ANDREW DOYLE, BISHOP OF TEXAS
THE REVEREND STEVE KARCHER, RECTOR

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Prelude

Organ

Processional

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs 1-3)

Hymnal 87

Greetings from Fr. Steve (brief announcements)

The Opening Sentence

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

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:37-40

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria - *spoken*

BCP 324

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;



Christmastide is the name given to the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar. It begins on Christmas Eve at sunset and ends on the evening of the 5th of January.

It is commonly called the Twelve Days of Christmas, lasts for 12 days, from 25 December to 5 January, the latter date being named as Twelfth Night. These traditional dates are adhered to by the Lutheran Church and the Anglican Church. [Christmastide - Wikipedia](#)

The **Epiphany season**, also known as **Epiphanytide** or the time of **Sundays After Epiphany**, is a liturgical period, celebrated by many Christian Churches, which immediately follows the Christmas season. It begins on Epiphany Day, January 6th. [Epiphany season - Wikipedia](#)

In the Western Christian world, the two traditional days on which Christmas decorations are removed are Twelfth Night, Baptism of Jesus, and Candlemas.

Recessional Hymn “Joy To The World” (vs 1-4) Hymnal 100

The Dismissal BCP 339

Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

Postlude Organ/Piano

GOD’S BLESSINGS AND PEACE FOR THIS JOYFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Please join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation in the Parish Hall, after the service.

Please preserve the sanctity of the worship area by keeping lengthy conversations to the Parish Hall.

Maintain a quiet, contemplative space in the worship and narthex area.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day BCP 215

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant:

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, 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 liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson – Old Testament

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah 31:7-14 See Insert

After the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8 *Quam dilecta!* BCP 707/See Insert

The Second Lesson – The New Testament

Reader: A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

After the Reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn “Away In A Manger” (vs. 1) **Hymnal 101**

(please stand as you are able)

The Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12** **See Insert**

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the Gospel:

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Gospel Hymn “Away In A Manger” (vs. 2,3) **Hymnal 101**

The Sermon **Fr. Steve Karcher**

A moment of reflection follows

The Nicene Creed **BCP 326**

All stand (as you are able) and say:

**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,**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Draw near, *either in spirit or in person*, and receive them in remembrance that Christ died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(All persons are welcome to come to Jesus’ table for Communion or a Blessing.)

Communion Music

“What Child Is This?” (vs 1-3) **Hymnal 115**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” (vs 1-3) **Hymnal 107**

The Post Communion Prayer **BCP 339**

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.

And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing **BCP 339**

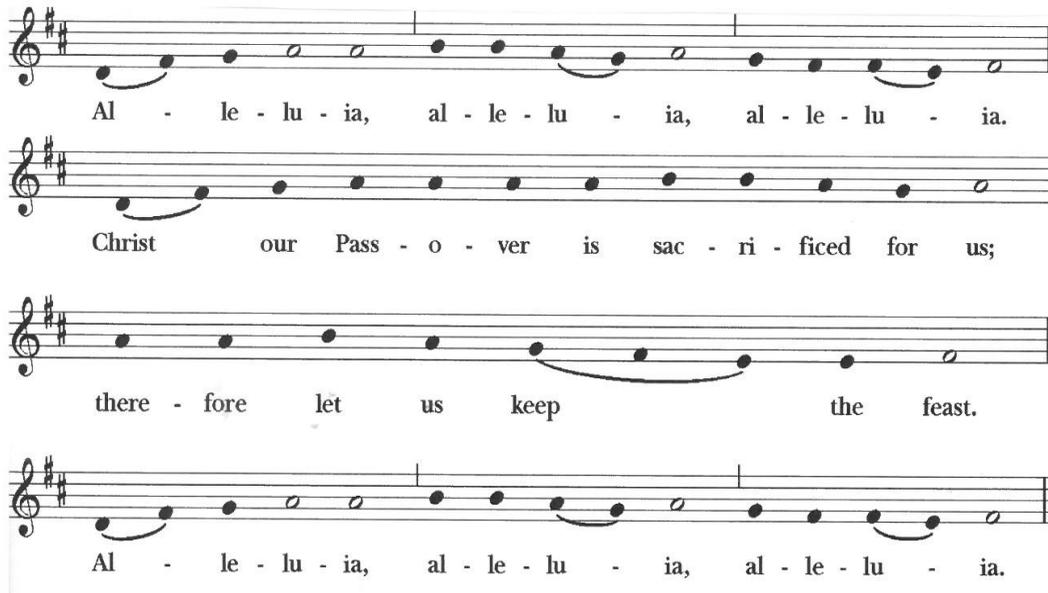
Celebrant: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154

Celebrant: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People: Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The second and third staves are for the People, with lyrics 'Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;' and 'there - fore let us keep the feast.' The fourth staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

All together:

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

**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

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world,
saying, "**Lord have Mercy**"

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord have Mercy.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially for Michael, our presiding Bishop, together with Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kathryn, our Bishops, Steve, our priest; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord have Mercy.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord have Mercy.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord have Mercy.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord have Mercy.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord have Mercy.

(Silence)

People may add their own petitions.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Christopher and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

6

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

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

Celebrant and People

**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.*

(Please stand or kneel - as you are able)

The Celebrant continues:

BCP 334

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

Lord have Mercy.

(Silence)

People may add their own petitions.

(Silence)

Prayer for Peace

BCP 815

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.

Lord have Mercy.

Prayer for those in the Armed Forces

BCP 823

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord have Mercy.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Deployments/Prayers

Confession of Sin

BCP 330

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.
Matthew 11:28

The Peace *(shared by waving, smiling, peace signs, etc., from one's pew)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

BCP 343

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

(The Priest prepares the table as the offering plate is passed)

Offertory Meditation

Organ/Piano

Doxology

Hymnal 380, v.3

**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 Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

The Sanctus *(spoken)*

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.