



**Morning Prayer on the 2nd Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2021
9:00am**

Welcome

Opening Sentences

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Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10, 11*

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. *Revelation 21:3*

Confession of Sin

Officiant

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

All

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

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

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Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant

Alleluia. To us a child is born: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite *Psalm 95: 1-7*

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Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 84: 1-12

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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!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading *Jeremiah 31: 7-14*

Common English Version

7 The Lord says: Celebrate and sing for Israel, the greatest of nations.

Offer praises and shout, "Come and rescue your people, Lord! Save what's left of Israel."

8 I, the Lord, will bring my people back from Babylonia and everywhere else on earth.

The blind and the lame will be there.

Expectant mothers and women about to give birth will come and be part of that great crowd.

9 They will weep and pray as I bring them home. I will lead them to streams of water.

They will walk on a level road and not stumble. I am a father to Israel, my favorite children.

10 Listen to me, you nations nearby or across the sea.

I scattered the people of Israel, but I will gather them again.

I will protect them like a shepherd guarding a flock;

11 I will rescue them from enemies who could overpower them.

12 My people will come to Mount Zion and celebrate; their faces will glow because of my blessings.

I'll give them grain, grapes, and olive oil, as well as sheep and cattle.

Israel will be prosperous and grow like a garden with plenty of water.

13 Young women and young men, together with the elderly, will celebrate and dance,

because I will comfort them and turn their sorrow into happiness.

14 I will bless my people with more food than they need, and the priests will enjoy the choice cuts of meat.

I, the Lord, have spoken.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah *Surge, Illuminare*

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Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be our everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second reading *Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23*

Common English Version

¹³ After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him.”

¹⁴ That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, ¹⁵ where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “I called my son out of Egypt.”

¹⁹ After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. ²⁰ The angel said, “Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead.”

²¹ Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. ²² But when he heard that Herod’s son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, ²³ and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

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Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our father and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.
To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

The Apostles' Creed *Officiant and people together.*

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins the Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

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Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us 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.

Intercessory Prayers B

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V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name forever.

V. Lord keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Prayer of the Day

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 humbles 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.**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

In the Diocese of Central New York we pray for the people of Grace Episcopal Church, Syracuse, and their rector-elect, the Rev. Ana Rivera-Georgescu, and, we pray for the people of Zion Episcopal Church, Greene, and their priest the Very Rev. David Hanselman. In our Companion Diocese, we pray for the people of La Divina Providencia, El Maizal, Sonsonate, and their priest, the Rev. Juan Pablo Alvarado. In the Episcopal Church, we pray for the people of the Diocese of East Carolina and their Bishop The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the people of the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria, and their Bishop the Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Sundays

O God, you make us glad, with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for our nation

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our

divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace. You O God, have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for those in need

We pray for those in need of healing, and those who work to heal, especially those we now name _____; May they know the healing touch of Jesus to be a source of rest, comfort, and restoration. **Amen.**

A prayer for those who have died

For those we love but see no longer, especially those we name silently or aloud _____. May they live forever with God in Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the mission of the Church

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessing

May the strength of God pilot you. May the power of God preserve you. May the wisdom of God instruct you. May the hand of God protect you. May the way of God direct you. May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.
Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46

The General Thanksgiving

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Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3: 20,21*