

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday after Christmas Dec. 31st, 2017

Prelude Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

Service of Light

BCP p. 109

Grant us Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that Holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for the First Sunday in Christmas

Opening Hymn#102

Once in Royal David's City

(Choir verse 2), everyone verses 1,4,5,6

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*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 Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

First Lesson — Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 (Susan Byers): God creates Man and Woman to live in Obedience to Him in the Garden of Eden:

- **Genesis 2:4-9** ⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. On the day the LORD God made earth and sky— ⁵before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the LORD God

hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, ⁶ though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— ⁷ the LORD God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. ⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. ⁹ In the fertile land, the LORD God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. ¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; ¹⁷ but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him." ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. ²⁰ The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found. ²¹ So the LORD God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. ²² With the rib taken from the human, the LORD God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. ²³ The human said, "This one finally is bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh. She will be called a woman because from a man she was taken." ²⁴ This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren't embarrassed.

- **The Word of the Lord**

Psalm 130

BCP p. 784

Hymn 84

Love Came Down

Prayer

Second Lesson — Isaiah 35:1-10 (Rodney Fisher): The Prophet proclaims that God will come and save us:

³⁵ The desert and the dry land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus. ² They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing. They will receive the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the LORD's glory, the splendor of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and support the unsteady knees. ⁴ Say to those who are panicking: "Be strong! Don't fear! Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. ⁶ Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing. Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground, fountains of water. The jackals' habitat, a pasture; grass will become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway will be there. It will be called The Holy Way. The unclean won't travel on it, but it will be for those walking on that way. Even fools won't get lost on it; ⁹ no lion will be there, and no predator will go up on it. None of these will be there; only the redeemed will walk on it. ¹⁰ The LORD's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee away. The Word of the Lord

Psalm 111

BCP p. 754

Hymn 81

Lo, How a Rose

Prayer

Third Lesson — Isaiah 7:10-15 (Pam Hamrin): God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us":

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the LORD." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? ¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. The Word of the Lord

Psalm 89 (Part 1)

BCP p. 713

Prayer

Hymn #115

What Child is This?

Fourth Lesson — Luke 1:26-58 (Rosa Kewson): The Angel Gabriel comes to the Virgin Mary.

- ²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her. ³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her." ⁴⁶ Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord!" ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home. ⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy.

• **The Word of the Lord**

Psalm 95 (vs. 1-7)

BCP p. 724

Prayer

Hymn #265

The Angel Gabriel

(vs. 1,2,4)

Fifth Lesson — Luke 2:1-2 (Rick Krewson): Jesus is born in Bethlehem and is worshipped by angels and shepherds.

- In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. ⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." ¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told. The Word of the Lord

Hymn #101

Away In A Manger

Prayer

Sixth Lesson — Hebrews 1:1-12 (Terry Tienken): In the Fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever and ever:

- 1 In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. ²In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. ³The Son is the light of God's glory and the imprint of God's being. He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. ⁴And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs. ⁵After all, when did God ever say to any of the angels: *You are my Son. Today I have become your Father?* Or, even, *I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?* ⁶But then, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said, *All of God's angels must worship him.* ⁷He talks about the angels: *He's the one who uses the spirits for his messengers and who uses flames of fire as ministers.* ⁸But he says to his Son, *God, your throne is forever and your kingdom's scepter is a rod of justice.* ⁹*You loved righteousness and hated lawless behavior. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with oil instead of your companions.* ¹⁰And he says, *You, Lord, laid the earth's foundations in the beginning, and the heavens are made by your hands.* ¹¹*They will pass away, but you remain. They will all wear out like old clothes.* ¹²*You will fold them up like a coat. They will be changed like a person changes clothes, but you stay the same, and the years of your life won't come to an end.* The Word of the Lord

Psalm 96
Hymn # 94
Prayer

BCP p. 725
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night (vs. 1-3)

Seventh Lesson — John 1:1-18 (Steve Mitchell): The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory:

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.

Meditation

The Rev. John A. Weatherly

Offertory Sentence
Offertory Anthem

Hymn #105 at the Presentation *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* (vs. 1,4)

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day.
To save us all from satan's power when we were gone astray,
(refrain) O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.
Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place
And with true love and charity, each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas doth, bring redeeming grace (refrain)

Prayer

Christmas Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Go Tell It On the Mountain

LEVAS 21