

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 26, 2021
"Give Love As A Gift"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #384 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.)*

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT *(Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10)*

P: The LORD will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations,

C: And all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

P: Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P: The LORD has made His salvation known

C: And revealed His righteousness to the nations.

P: He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

C: Burst into jubilant song with music!

P: The LORD will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations,

C: And all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (verses 1-4)



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.



Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 (ESV)

The LORD said to Moses, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is Mine." Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . . When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals

that are males shall be the LORD's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* (#367, verse 5)

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") [Exodus 13:2, 12] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." [Leviticus 12:8] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
according to Your word;

for my eyes have seen Your salvation
that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”

And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and
was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.**

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR DECEMBER Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #375 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending, And in
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with
4 From the bond - age that oppressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

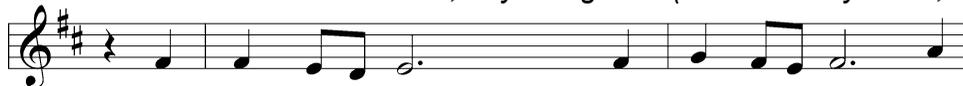
5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

THE SERMON "Give Love As A Gift" Text: Colossians 3:12-17

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

THE HYMN #372 "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is" (verses 1-3 by Choir; verses 4-6 by all)



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be



par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins



flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou
 What glory now
 The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
 The angel host
 Can never boast
 Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold
 Her wealth and gold;
 But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.
 To Him hold fast
 Until at last
 A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #390 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - jice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS