



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY – DECEMBER 26, 2021

READINGS: ISAIAH 61:10-62:3; PSALM 147:13-21; GALATIANS 3:23-25, 4:4-7; JOHN 1:1-14,18

Organ: Prelude - Divinum Mysterium - Wilbur Held

THE WORD OF GOD

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

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Alleluia. The Word became flesh. **God now dwells among us. Alleluia.**

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

**Hymn 96, Angels We Have Heard on High**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

IN OUR HEBREW BIBLE READING, THE PROPHET JOYFULLY RESPONDS ON BEHALF OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO THE LORD'S PROMISES FOR A REDEEMED JERUSALEM. THE PROPHET WILL NOT KEEP SILENCE UNTIL THE DELIVERANCE OF JERUSALEM IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

PSALM 147 IS A HYMN OF PRAISE TO THE LORD, WHO RULES OVER NATURE AND HAS SHOWN FAITHFULNESS TO JERUSALEM AND GOD'S PEOPLE ISRAEL.

Worship the Lord; **O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!**

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the GALATIANS

IN THIS EPISTLE LESSON, PAUL EXPLAINS WHAT THE ROLE OF THE LAW HAS BEEN AND HOW, IN OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH, WE HAVE BECOME CHILDREN AND HEIRS OF THE FATHER.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

### **Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed**

I believe; **In one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;**

**All bow: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; All rise**

**And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end;**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets;**

**And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

Creating God, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God: **Hear our prayer.**

There was no room for your Son in the inn.  
Protect those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth.  
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen our work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Wise Men were led to the Holy Family and found the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold those safely who have passed through death to life. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God **hear our prayer.**

Incarnate God, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

# Holy Communion

## Offertory Hymn 82: Of the Father's Love Begotten

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy are you, embracing God, for through your Word . . . in their unending hymn of praise:

**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, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

*After the breaking of the bread:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ has become one with us, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanks.

*All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.*

*Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.*

*After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:*

Lord of all; **The child born for us is the Savior of the world. May we, his children by adoption and grace, be welcomed into your kingdom, where he lives and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen.**

May He, who has gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and the blessing, etc.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 100: Joy to the World, the Lord has Come!

Organ: Christmas Medley - Michael Broughton

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Our 75<sup>th</sup> Year!

We share the light of Christ by actively loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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