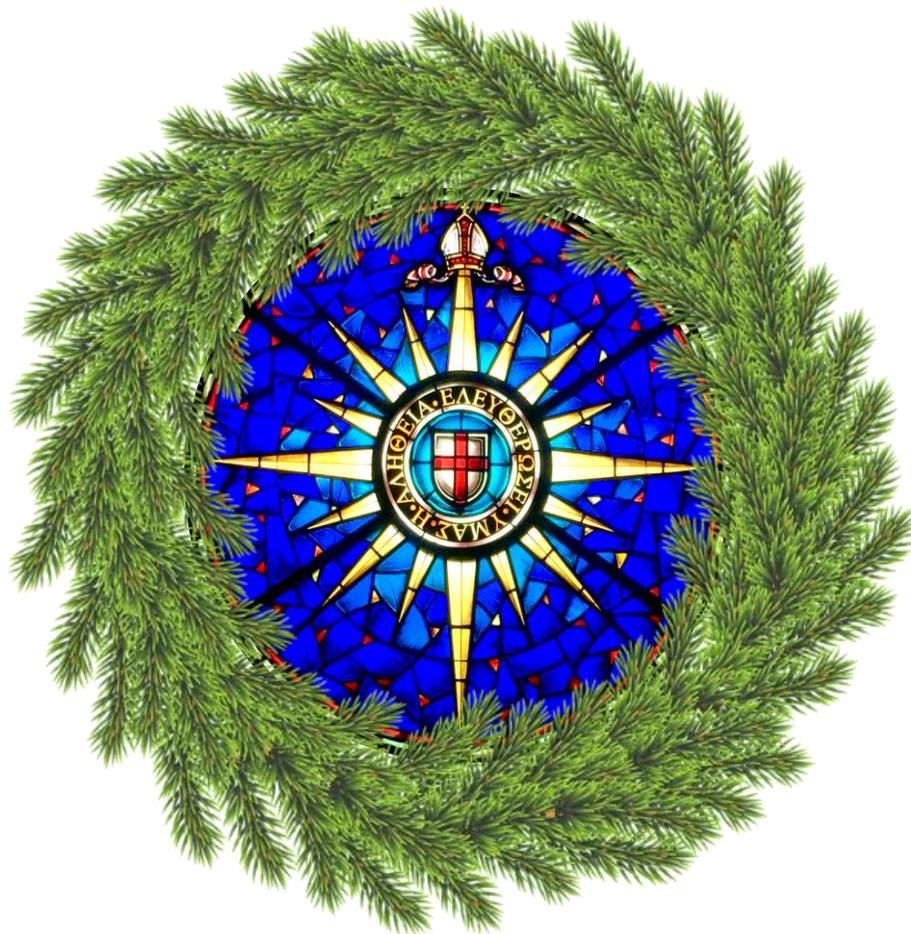


Grace Episcopal Church

Alexandria, Virginia



The Second Sunday after Christmas Day
Choral Eucharist, Rite II
January 3, 2021 – 9:00 AM

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II
 JANUARY 3, 2021



VOLUNTARY Cradle Song

Henry G. Ley (1887-1962)

HYMN 416 For the beauty of the earth

Lucerna Laudoniae

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
 to the world so freely given,
 faith and hope and love divine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Unto us a child is born.
People **O come, let us adore him.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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.**

Gloria in excelsis

William Mathias, S-278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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 humbled 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.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

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

- 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

Priest The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Jason Roberson

Silence is kept.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

**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, 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III; BCP, p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Praying especially for those affected by the coronavirus and all other illness around the world, their caregivers, and those working and serving on the front lines of the crisis; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering all those who have died of the coronavirus, and all those killed in acts of terror, violence and war around the world, give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence is kept. The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

THE PEACE

Our Savior Christ is the Prince of Peace: of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM *Quem pastores laudavere* Traditional

1. Shepherds left their flocks a-straying,
God's command with joy obeying
When they heard the angel saying,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
2. Wise men came from far and saw him
Knelt in homage to adore him
Precious gifts they laid before him
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.
3. Let us now in every nation
Sing his praise with exultation
All the world shall find salvation
In excelsis gloria.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP, p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

William Mathias, S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

**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 FRACTION ANTHEM

Cantor, then All:



Al- le - lu - ia! Al- le - lu - ia!

Cantor: The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
He was with God in the beginning and dwelt among us.
All: Alleluia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL RECEPTION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; permit not that I should ever be separated from you. Amen.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING FOR CHRISTMAS

May Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 480 When Jesus left his Father's throne

Kingsfold



1 When Je - sus left his Fa - ther's throne, he chose an hum - ble birth;
2 Sweet were his words and kind his look, when mo - thers round him pressed;
3 When Je - sus in - to Zi - on rode, the chil - dren sang a - round;



like us, un - hon - ored and un - known, he came to dwell on earth.
their in - fants in his arms he took, and on his bos - om blessed.
for joy they plucked the palms and strowed their gar - ments on the ground.



Like him may we be found be - low, in wis - dom's path of peace;
Safe from the world's al - lur - ing harms, be - neath his watch - ful eye,
Ho - san - na our glad voic - es raise, ho - san - na to our King!



like him in grace and know - ledge grow as years and strength in - crease.
thus in the cir - cle of his arms may we for ev - er lie.
Should we for - get our Sa - vior's praise, the stones them - selves would sing.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her*

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

THOSE SERVING

Celebrant
Preacher
Seminarian & Intercessor
Lector
Crucifer
Choir
Organist
Altar Guild Crew Leader
Flower Arranger
Live Stream Crew

The Rev. Jeremy Means-Koss
The Rev. Jason Roberson
Paul Evans
Deborah Leslie
Karlene Kelly
An Ensemble from the Adult Choir
Richard Newman, DMA
Kristine Hesse
Nancy Robinson
Jay Legere & Nate Cline

