



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 27, 2020

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Please observe silence before the service for prayer and meditation, so that all may prepare heart and mind for worship. All mobile telephones, pagers and electronic devices with audible alarms should be turned off prior to the service.

REV. KATHERINE WREN, CELEBRANT
THE RT. REV. LARRY BENFIELD, BISHOP

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as the cross enters.

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

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.**

Celebrant and people say

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Priest: 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.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON A reading from Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *

and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *

there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *

but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *

make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *

and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *

and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *

and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *

he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *

in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *

praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *

he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *

and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON A Reading from Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John .

People: **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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Katherine Wren

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

Celebrant and People

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Larry, our Bishop, and Jon, Katherine and
Matthew, our seminarians; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

The Celebrant concludes with a collect.

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: **All things come of thee O Lord**

People: **and of thine own have we given thee.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also 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 proceeds

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel. 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.

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 [all] for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**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 Mark and 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant and People

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING

The priest blesses the people, saying

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.

DISMISSAL

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Two Saints' Kitchen



Two Saints Kitchen: Last week : Team 6 served 35+ to go lunches.
Extra food was shared with Breaking Bonds ministry. We thank Kroger
for their donations.



All Kroger Shoppers : Donating to 'Two Saints' Kitchen Inc. through
your Kroger App. cost you nothing! Kroger donates to an organization
of your choice, through their Community Rewards program. If you

have a Kroger card and use the app or have an account please add our Two Saints' Kitchen to your Community Rewards Program. From the home page go to the three lines at the upper left of the page and select Rewards and then select Community Rewards. Type In 'Two Saints' Kitchen Inc . Each quarter of the year, Kroger will send this program a donation check. This does not cost you money, and it does not impact your Kroger Points, but it does help our program feed people who are food insecure. Every little bit helps! Also, pass on this information to your friends and family!



Two Saints' Kitchen is still serving the community during the pandemic: Two Saints Kitchen has had to change the way that they serve meals on Saturdays during the pandemic, they now serve food to go from the wrought iron gates. This has presented some challenges and new needs for them. Richard Owens has communicated with the church on some items that you could give and will help out. Dana has a box set up on the coffee hour bar where you may drop off your donation, a mask is required to enter the building.

Items for donation: bottle water, variety packs of individual chips, knife/fork/spoon packs found in take out meals, general purpose spray cleaners, liquid dish soap, dishwasher tabs, paper towels, extra large black trash bags, Plastic t-shirt bags, take out containers, and two thermometers for the freezers.

Your donation will always be much appreciated! You may also make a monetary donation to Two Saints Kitchen. ***Make a memo on your check or make a note if you give through Tithe.ly*** . Two Saints' is honored to help provide food to so many during this time and we are grateful to Kroger for providing food to our program. Volunteers are always needed: email the church and we will find you a spot at Two Saints' Kitchen! - Thank you, Richard Owens, Two Saints' Co- Director



Forward Day by Day devotionals for Nov./Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021 are now available. You may pick one up from the basket on the table immediately to the left when you enter through the double red doors. You may leave your \$1.00 donation in the basket.



Helping Neighbors:

We can always use volunteers! We open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 10:00 am to 2:00pm. We are in need of relief people for the scales, a

card person on Thursday afternoon and runners every day as well as people to go out to the cars and fill out the service slips . If you can volunteer text Gary Latanich at 870-926-5476. Thank you.

FYI Prayer List and Announcements : All through these past months our own chapter of Daughters of the King has continued to pray for St. Mark's, and for those who are on our prayer list. If you have someone that you would like to add to our church prayer list, you may contact Dana at secretary@stmarksjonesboro.org and she will be happy to add your prayer request to our list. Also, if you would like to include an announcement or a praise in the weekly announcements, you may email Dana and she will post your announcement.

Dear Friends in Christ,

What an extraordinary and challenging year 2020 has been! The pandemic and resulting imposed restrictions on meeting as a congregation has forced us to find new ways of worshiping and being a faith community.

That also has necessitated a new way of conducting a Fall Stewardship Campaign. The traditional approaches for a campaign (Every Member Canvas and/or a Celebration Dinner) simply are not feasible.

Yet, the ministries of St. Mark's go on to our parish community and the community at large. Their success relies on your generous contributions – even more so in these difficult times. As a result, we will be counting on each of you to respond faithfully to this simple appeal.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your 2021 pledge so that the Vestry can prepare an accurate budget for the coming year. You may pledge by clicking [here](#) or on the link below. If you prefer to complete a pledge card, you may contact Dana Moses (932-2124) in the Church office.

There will also be a basket on the front table to the left when you enter the church with pledge cards and envelopes. You may fill one out and slide it under the church office

door. Be sure to write: Pledge on the front of the envelope. A mask is required to enter the building.

Thank you for your faithful support for the ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Sincerely,

Andy Peeler, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee

Tom Haynes, Senior Warden

Fr. Dennis Campbell+, Interim Rector

ST. MARK'S STAFF

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The Episcopal Church welcomes you!



ST MARK'S
Episcopal Church

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