

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prelude Hark! The herald angels sing

Anna Laura Page

Processional God rest ye, merry gentlemen

Hymnal # 105

The Word of God

Opening Sentences

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
And we beheld His glory.

A Collect for Purity *in unison*

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.**

The Collect of the day

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Introduction

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God’s name and God’s blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,

Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

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

Psalm: 8 Domine, Dominus noster

1 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;
7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
10 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Glory 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.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So 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**

Gradual: Joy to the world

hymn # 100

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke
...**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made

known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor

The Nicene Creed

Page 358 in the *Book of Common Prayer*

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

from *Intercessions for a Christian People*

Brothers and sisters, God has pitched a tent in our midst. God's Word has taken our flesh. That all may know God's presence bringing us together, it is fitting that our flesh should call to God in holy words of petition, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the feet of each of us might be made beautiful through our proclamation of peace at table, desk, and lathe, as well as in every place where violence threatens, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the Word which conquers darkness might enlighten the blindness which keeps Christ's followers separated and at odds, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our celebration of God's first born might inspire and quicken in us protection and nurture of all human life, and especially the children, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 *in unison*

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem *in unison* tune: Greensleeves

O Lamb of God, O holy child who takes the sins of the world away, have mercy on us, Lamb of God, the babe, the Son, of Mary. This, this is Christ's own blood and body given the gift from heaven; take, eat for we are one, in Christ, the Son, of Mary.

Invitation to Communion

The music during communion is provided by our organist Donna Burnside

Spiritual communion prayer

Post Communion Prayer *in unison* (*kneeling as you are able*)

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: in this night you have made known to us again the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ through the gift of the Sacrament of His body and Blood, confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him so the light of faith

May illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is
Christ the Lord. Amen. *from the Irish Anglican Church*

Benediction

Recessional Angels from the realms of glory Hymnal 93

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