



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The First Sunday after Christmas **Holy Eucharist: Rite One**

December 31, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.cec.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn

Angels from the realms of glory

H 93

Welcome!

BCP 323

Celebrant

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

People

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

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant

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

The people remain standing.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise

Joy to the world the Lord is come

H 100

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Collect for the Day

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with

thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-10, 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!

The Psalm

Psalm 147:13-21

Laudate Dominum

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

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

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!

The people standing.

Hymn

Away in a manger

H 101

The Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

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

People Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

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;
who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 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

BCP 328

The people may stand or kneel.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop, Paul our Priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord, have mercy

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may

hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, have mercy

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially. our President, Joe our Governors, Jim and Glenn and our Mayors, Ron and Donnie that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord, have mercy

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord, have mercy

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, have mercy

Pause (Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Pause

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

BCP 330

The celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept

The Celebrant and people say:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought,

word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

H 81

We offer our meager gifts to the service of God in this world

Presentation of Gifts and Tithe

380 vs. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people remain standing

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

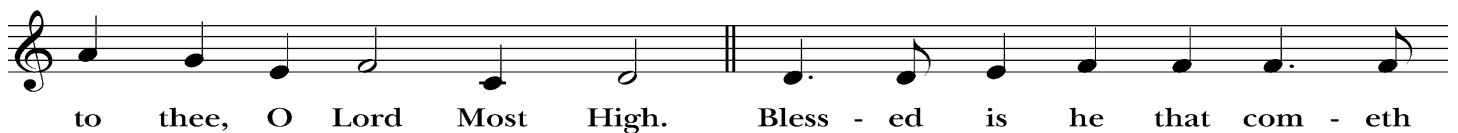
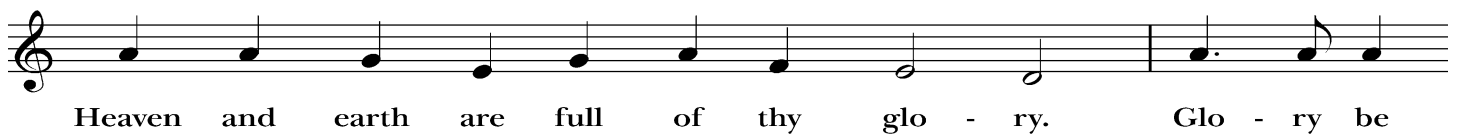
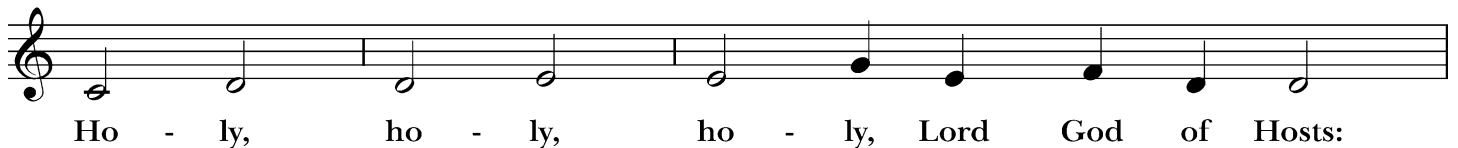
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

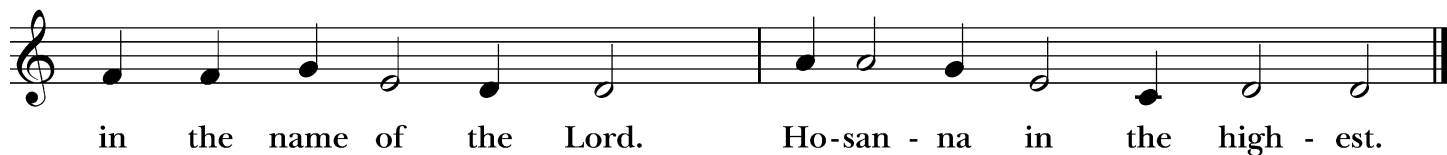
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #113





Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to

hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

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

People and Celebrant

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

The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People

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

The minister receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats and another group may move forward to the rail. If you need assistance receiving the sacrament, please notify the usher. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest. Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door by the reader's lectern.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion, you are invited to read the following in silent prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

H 324

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 339

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee

for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen

H 105

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted Lewis, Jim Dyer, Kathy Elick, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin

and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, Beth Kane, Debbie H, Tim M., and Irene, Melissa Cowden's mother.

Attendance Last Sunday:

122

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Tim and Maggie. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys, learn ways we can pray for each other, and get to know one another better. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Mike Lilly

Lector

Cameron Clement

Altar Guild

Teresa Paine, Betty Nash,
Linda Thomas

Birthdays this week: George Clement, James Dyer, and Walter Sowers.

The Altar Flowers are given by Sheila Brooks for the greater Glory of God and in gratitude to Mary Catherine Williams.

Calendar of Events:

Sunday – January 7	Canterbury Club at the home of Linda Thomas 6:00pm
Wednesday – January 10	Union Mission 4:00pm
Tuesday – January 16	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – January 17	Men's Dinner 6:00pm Vestry meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – January 18	Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am
Sunday – January 21	Christ Church Annual Meeting
Wednesday – January 24	Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Pewter CEC Ornaments: We have a limited number of ornaments remaining. Please see Mary Catherine Williams to purchase. Money made from the sales

goes to the Memorial Fund.

Food Pantry Collection: A bin has been placed in the narthex for blankets, which may be homemade, purchased, or gently used. Thank you so much for your participation in this community need!

Loose Offerings: All Sundays' loose offerings during the **month of December** will be designated for our Food Pantry ministry. Please be generous in helping this ministry assist our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Canterbury Club: January Canterbury Club will be held at the home of Linda Thomas on **January 7 at 6pm**. Bring your favorite dish and adult beverage. This is an adult gathering. If you have any questions contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com .

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **January 7, 21, and 28, 2024**. Sign up on the white board located outside the library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Priest

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden