



The First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020

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"Embrace Christmas with **Expectation**"

Pastor Dan Critchett

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LSB 380

Opening Hymn – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

ref Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1John 1:8

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Salutation and Collect of the Day (short prayer before hearing the Word)

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

P Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Readings From Holy Scripture

Old Testament Reading -

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. 2The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. 3You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading -

Galatians 4:4-7

4But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation 31that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." 36And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord **C Praise to you O Christ.**

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the triune God, as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. God the Father who has created me, God the Son who has redeemed me, and God the Holy Spirit who has sanctified me, and given me the gift of faith. This is my Lord, three persons yet one God. He loves me now and forever, and invites me to an eternal relationship with Him, as I learn to trust and obey Him in all things. I believe that He calls me to live a life of purpose and meaning. A life that honors Him and blesses others. I believe that He forgives my sins, and enables me to live the life to which He calls me. I dedicate myself to that life. I desire His favor and blessing, and I will delight to serve Him all of my days on earth until, by His grace, He calls me home to worship and serve Him in heaven forever. Amen.

Sermon Hymn – Thou Light of Gentile Nations

Thou Light of Gentile nations, Thou Savior from above,
Drawn by Thy Spirit's leading, We come with joy and love
Into Thy holy temple And wait with earnest mind
As Simeon had waited His God and Lord to find.

Yea, Lord, Thy servants meet Thee In ev'ry holy place
Where Thy true Word has promised That we should see Thy face.
Today Thou still dost grant us Who gather round Thee here
In arms of faith to bear Thee As did that aged seer.

Be Thou our Joy and Brightness, Our Cheer in pain and loss,
Our Sun in darkest terror, The Glory round our cross,
A Star for sinking spirits, A Beacon in distress,
Physician, Friend, in sickness, In death our Happiness.

Let us, O Lord, be faithful Like Simeon to the end,
So that his prayer exultant. May from our hearts ascend:
"O Lord, now let Thy servant. Depart in peace, I pray,
Since I have seen my Savior. And here beheld His day."

Sermon – Embrace Christmas with **Expectation**

Luke 2:30-31

Setting:

Saying:

Significance:

Seed:

Nunc Dimittis

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.
2 For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
3 Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Offering

Prayers of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy... **C Hear our prayer**

P Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who while he was with us, walking among us, taught us to pray:

C 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction (a good word from Numbers 6:24-27)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **C Amen**

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

After the closing Hymn please be seated for information regarding our life together in support of our mission to enrich lives by sharing the loving word and ways of Jesus.

Closing Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest! O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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