

St Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2001 Windsor Drive  
P.O. Box 342  
Newton, Kansas 67114



Sunday, December 26, 2020  
The First Sunday After Christmas  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
A Spoken Liturgy  
Worship at 10:15 AM

Facebook.com/stmattsnewton  
Website: stmatthewsnewton.org

*Masks required*

Opening Acclamation

BCP-Pg. 355

Collect for Purity

BCP-Pg. 355

Gloria in Excelsis

BCP Pg. 356

### The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 forever. *Amen.*

### The Lessons

#### The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A reading from Isaiah.

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 cause 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like breadcrumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians.

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.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

**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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP-Pg. 358

## The Prayers of the People

We will recount the gracious deeds and the praiseworthy acts of the Lord; for Christ is born, a savior in our distress:

### **Praise the Lord, sun and moon and shining stars.**

Our delight is in the babe of Bethlehem lying in the manger, in the redemption brought by the holy child Jesus, and in the yearly remembrance of his birth, moving us to hymns and songs of praise:

### **Praise the Lord who made the heavens to stand fast.**

We pray for peace and justice in all the earth, for goodwill between peoples, for the poor and helpless, the hungry and oppressed to whom Christ summons us in service:

### **Praise the Lord, fire and hail, snow, and fog.**

We pray for those who know loneliness in this season of reunion, that they may feel the comfort of divine visitation:

### **Praise the Lord, tempestuous wind, mountains, and all hills.**

As Jesus took captive human suffering and sanctified the travail of the least of his brothers and sisters, move us to lift burdens too heavy to bear and to care for those in any need or trouble:

### **Praise the Lord, young and old together.**

As you commissioned Joseph to rescue the infant Jesus from Herod's terror, help us strive for children everywhere, and most especially for the neglected, the vulnerable, and those in daunting circumstance:

### **Praise the Lord; exalt God's Name in all the earth.**

We bless you for Christmas joy, and pray to share in your calling and commission, that the work begun at Bethlehem may continue in our lives and in the witness of this parishes:

### **God has raised up a people to draw near**

Pray for our Full Communion Partner, the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India

Pray for the people of Ghana and Nigeria

Pray for Calvary Episcopal Church, Yates Center, The Reverend Helen Hoch, Vicar and their lay leadership.

For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for our Bishop Cathleen Bascom, for all bishops and ministers, and for all the holy people of God.

For Heartland Minster and their Shepherd, The Reverend Marc McDonald, Rector of St Andrews Episcopal Church, Emporia Kansas.

We give thanks for St. Matthew's and Trinity and pray for St. Matthew's Payee Program, Northridge Elementary School their teachers, staff, students and families, Priscilla's Pet Pantry, and all outreach of our churches.

### The Concluding Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Confession of Sin

BCP-Pg. 360

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP-Pg. 367

Sanctus

BCP Pg. 367

The Lord's Prayer

BCP-Pg. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP-Pg. 364

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP-Pg. 365

### The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with 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*

### The Dismissal

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind and in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ministers for This Service

The Reverend Les Jackson

The Reverend. Barbara Gibson, *Deacon*

Fred Schroeder, *Lector*

Ben Teichler, *Videographer*

*Altar Flowers given by  
Margie Knupp  
"For Blessings Received"*