

**An Order for  
The Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 3, 2021**

**The Gathering**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all:  
**and also with you.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
**he has come to his people and set them free.**  
Light has sprung up for the righteous  
**and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**  
Glory to God in the highest  
**and peace to his people on earth.**

**Hymn: Of The Father's Love Begotten (from 0:22)**

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega;  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

2 By his word was all created;  
he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,  
universe of three in one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the light of moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.

3 Blessèd was that day forever  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit's power conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the child, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

4 Sing ye heights of heaven with praises;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
all dominions bow before him,  
and extol our God and king;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

**Invitation to Confession**

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*There is a moment of silence in which we recollect all the thing we have done which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done.*

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Collect**

God our Father,  
in love you sent your Son  
that the world may have life:  
lead us to seek him among the outcast  
and to find him in those in need,  
for Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever  
*All* **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **The First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.  
*All Thanks be to God.*

**The Psalm: Psalm 147.13-end**

13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; ♦ praise your God, O Zion;	18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread; ♦
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates ♦ and has blest your children within you.	19 He sends forth his word and melts them; ♦
15 He has established peace in your borders ♦ and satisfies you with the finest wheat.	20 He declares his word to Jacob, ♦ his statutes and judgements to Israel.
16 He sends forth his command to the earth ♦ and his word runs very swiftly.	21 He has not dealt so with any other nation; ♦ they do not know his laws. Alleluia.
17 He gives snow like wool ♦ and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.	

**Glory to God, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,  
just as he chose us in Christ  
before the foundation of the world  
to be holy and blameless before him in love.  
He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,  
according to the good pleasure of his will,  
to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus  
and your love toward all the saints,  
and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you  
as I remember you in my prayers.  
I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of glory,  
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation  
as you come to know him,  
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,  
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,  
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,  
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power f  
or us who believe.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn: Go, Tell It On The Mountain**

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 Down in a lowly manger  
our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

## **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Now after [the Magi] had left,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

“Get up, take the child and his mother,  
and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you;  
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,  
and remained there until the death of Herod.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,  
“Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died,

an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,  
“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel,  
for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod,  
he was afraid to go there.

And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

There he made his home in a town called Nazareth,

so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,  
“He will be called a Nazorean.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All Thanks be to God.*

## **Reflection**

### **Hymn: Jesus Entered Egypt**

Jesus entered Egypt fleeing Herod’s hand,  
living as an alien in a foreign land.

Far from home and country with his family,  
was there room and welcome for this refugee?

Jesus was a migrant living as a guest  
with the friends and strangers who could offer rest.  
Do we hold wealth lightly so that we can share  
shelter with the homeless, and abundant care?

Jesus crosses borders with the wand’ring poor,  
Searching for a refuge, for an open door.  
Do our words and actions answer Jesus’s plea:  
“Give the lowly welcome, and you welcome me”?

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**An Intercession.**

**The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Language)**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Hymn: Good King Wenceslas**

1 Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

2 “Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowst it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”  
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

3 “Bring me meat and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”  
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the rude wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.

4 “Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread thou in them boldly,  
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze your blood less coldly.”

5 In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in that very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

## **The Dismissal**

God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds  
the good news of Jesus’ birth.  
**Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

You have heard his story,  
the story of God’s own Son.  
**Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

May he fill you with joy  
to bring this good news to others today.  
**Amen. We thank you, Lord.**