THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Anglican Church in North America

Year B

Seasonal Greeting

Celebrant For unto us a child is born.
People **Unto us a son is given.**
Isaiah 9:6

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled 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 for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:5

I 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. **11** For 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.

62 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. **2** The 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. **3** You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. **4** You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD

delights in you, and your land shall be married. [5] For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter Verses

(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)

Psalm 147:12-20

[12] Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion.

[13] For he has made strong the bars of your gates *
and has blessed your children within you.

[14] He makes peace in your borders *
and fills you with the finest of wheat.

[15] He sends forth his commandment upon the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

[16] He gives snow like wool *
and scatters the white frost like ashes.

[17] He casts forth his ice like crumbs; *
who is able to abide his frost?

[18] He sends out his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

[19] He declares his word unto Jacob, *
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.

[20] He has not dealt so with other nations; *
neither have they knowledge of his laws. Praise the LORD.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 3:23-4:7

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned
until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our
guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.
25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for
in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of
you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither
Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and fe-
male, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then
you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

4 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a
slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians
and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also,
when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of
the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his
Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because
you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son,
then an heir through God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were
made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was
made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as
a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through
him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the
world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet
the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people
did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in
his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were
born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but
of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen
his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and
truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of
whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was
before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon
grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is
at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

Offertory and Post-Communion Sentences

(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)

Proper Preface

Christmas

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.