

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury
Online Liturgy for January 3, 2021
The Second Sunday of Christmas

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

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

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant

The Lord be with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The New Testament

Lector. A reading from **Paul's letter to the 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 for us who believe.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke 2:42-52

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is to join the conversation.

The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving, and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The word of God lives among and within us to strengthen and inspire. With confidence let us pray to our God, the Father, with words of hope and faith.

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ:

God of light empower your ministers and people to proclaim your gospel fearlessly whenever darkness obscures human dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the nations of the world:

God of peace, in your word we recognize the abundance of your enduring love. Grant to this world, marked by division and strife, a thirst for justice perfected in selfless love. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of life strengthen us to serve with joy those who experience the darkness of suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all educators:

God of wisdom, in your word we hear the proclamation of your truth. Enlighten all who teach with your Spirit of knowledge and understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this community of faith:

God of grace give us hearts filled with love, voices to speak your praise, and lives conformed to the image of your Son.
Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the sick and the dying:

God of glory, in your word we receive the promise of life beyond weakness and sorrow. Heal those who call upon you and reveal your light to those in the shadow of death. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of joy and wonder, we thank you for the newness of life as we celebrate the birth of Mario Ostilio DeBerardinis, born on December 24th, 2020. May he grow in stature and faith with the knowledge of your love and care. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

[Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.]

Creator of all, you have not abandoned your creation, but have made your dwelling with us in Christ. Hear your faithful people, and grant us the blessings of your mercy, for we make this prayer in the name of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

People 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.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of our Savior through the miracle of Jesus' birth: Make our hearts and minds ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that we may be filled with hope, joy, peace, and love as we welcome the brightness of your light into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

Celebrant May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. *Amen*

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today. Happy New Year!