



HYMNALS WE USE: H82 (Blue); LEVAS (Black and Red); WLP (Green)

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCE

Please stand as you are able

Officiant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10,11

HYMN

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed

H82 #101

CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant: Kneeling as you are able, let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Please stand as you are able

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

VENITE

Psalms 95:1-7

Officiant God is the Rock of our salvation: O come let us worship.

All **Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

For you are a great God, you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
 17 He gives snow like wool; *

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity,
 one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and
 will be for ever. Amen**

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Please be seated
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A Reading from the Prophet 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 causes 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.

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

Please stand as you are able

CANTICLE C

The Song of Hannah

1 Samuel 2:1-8

Officiant My heart exults in you, O God;
 my triumph song is lifted in you.

All **My mouth derides my enemies,
 for I rejoice in your salvation.
 There is none holy like you,
 nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.
 Do not heap up prideful words or speak in
 arrogance;
 Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.
 The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the weak are clothed in strength.
 Those once full now labor for bread,
 those who hungered now are well fed.**

**The childless woman has borne sevenfold,
 while the mother of many is forlorn.
 God destroys and brings to life, casts down and
 raises up;
 gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and
 dignifies.
 God raises the poor from the dust;
 and lifts the needy from the ash heap
 To make them sit with the rulers
 and inherit a place of honor.
 For the pillars of the earth are God's
 on which the whole earth is founded.**

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one
God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be for ever. Amen.

Please be seated

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

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the Letter to the 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.

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

Please stand as you are able

1 John 4:7-11

CANTICLE N

A Song of God's Love

Officiant Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God.

**Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we ought also to love one another.**

All **Whoever does not love does not know God,
for God is Love.**

**For if we love one another, God abides in us,
and God's love will be perfected in us.**

**In this the love of God was revealed among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.**

All Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one
God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
for ever. Amen

**In this is love, not that we loved God but that God
loved us and sent his Son that sins might be
forgiven.**

Please be seated

John 1:1-18

THE THIRD LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

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.

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY HYMN

In the bleak midwinter
H82 #112

THE PRAYERS

Please stand as you are able

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.
People **And listen to our prayer.**
Officiant Let us pray.

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.

SUFFRAGES B

all seated or kneeling

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned
away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know
you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
**R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of
our life**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 for ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington St. James' Church, Somerville Christ Church, Waltham Congregation of St. Peter at Christ Episcopal Church, Waltham Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown. For our city and neighborhood, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray together.

For those dear to us who have sought our prayers this morning Ed, Rick, Jim, Catherine, Carla, Chris, Alexis, Ken, Lynnette, Christina, Carol, Julie, Mary, Catherine, Michael, Parker, Sergio, Martha, Anne, Patricia, Kenneth, Maureen, Rachael, Louise, Scott, Kathleen, Paul, Eddy, Christopher, Julie Ann, Joan, and those we now name either silently or aloud (*pause*).

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

All **Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN

Good Christian friends, rejoice

H82 #107

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20,21

