

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

The Word of God

Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful # 83

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say

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.

Glory to God - Angels we have heard on high # 96

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Lessons (*The people sit.*)

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.
 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: O Little Town Of Bethlehem # 79

THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-14 (The People Stand)

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.

After the Gospel, the Reader says The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed (All Standing)

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin
 Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
 Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the
 Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the
 living and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Prayers of the People (Form VI) *The Leader and People pray responsively*
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; *For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world; *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation; *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Katharine our Presiding Bishop, Paul and Jack our Bishops; James & John our Priests; and for all bishops and other ministers; *For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For those who suffer in body, mind or spirit *Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.*

For those you would like to name at this time, either silently or aloud. *(The People may add their own petitions)* Hear us, Lord; *For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, *for all the blessings of this life.*

We will exalt you, O God our King; *And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, *that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; *Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Exchange of the Peace *All stand.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn: Angels From The Realms of Glory # 93 (Remain Seated)

Presentation Of Offerings: Doxology Hymnal 380 verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said*)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,
*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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

The Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Invitation to Communion

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at Prince of Peace. An usher will direct you to the Communion Rail.

**Communion Hymns: *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* #89 &
Away In A Manger #101 (Remain Seated)**

The Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

**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
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
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.**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn: *Joy to the World* #100

*During the singing of the Recessional Hymn the acolytes will light the first candle in each pew,
please pass the light from your candle to your neighbor. Upon the completion of the Hymn,
please kneel or be seated for the candlelight singing of Silent Night.*

Closing Hymn: "*Silent Night*" #111

Organ Postlude: "*The Heavens Declare*" Bendetto Marcello

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve

WELCOME & MERRY CHRISTMAS Thank you for celebrating the gift of Christmas with us this evening. We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas Season!

NEW RECTOR Prince of Peace is pleased to announce that The Reverend John Major has accepted the call to be our new Rector. Father Major is also the Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church, West Pittston. Father will begin his ministry with Prince of Peace on Sunday January 4.

SEVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE Beginning on the first Sunday in January we will be returning to one Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am. This change will allow us to worship as a family together. It will also permit Father Major to officiate here at 9:00 am and in West Pittston at 11:00 am.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed for the holiday and vacation until Tuesday January 6. In case of emergency you may contact Jennifer at 675-9528.

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS Please remember that according to IRS regulations, all contributions and pledge payments must be received in the church office by December 31 in order to be credited towards 2008.

FATHER STEVENSON is a patient at Geisinger Hospital where he will undergo open-heart surgery. Please keep Father Jim, his family and his caretakers in your prayers.

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available Sunday, December 28.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 28, our 10:00 am service will be a Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols.

SECOND SATURDAY @ SEVEN SERIES continues in January with a service of Evening Prayer on January 10, 7:00 pm.

The 2008 Christmas Flowers

In loving memory of:

Virginia Ritter, by Jeff & Lois Townsend

Louis & Ruth Becker and George E. Gwilliam by the Gwilliam Family

John D and Emily W. Jillson by their daughter, Mary Jillson-Stout

Henry & Bernice Todd and Lorimer & Miriam Wriglesworth by the Todd Family

William Cushner, Frances Sharp, Rose Meneeley, Gloria Hill by Beverly A Cushner

Jean Monk by the Monk Family

Anna & August Strazdus by Sandy & Lynn Sheehan & Family and Karen Spudis

John Sheehan and Verna & Jack Sheehan by the Sheehan Family

The Arch and Eppley Families by Mr & Mrs Raymond Eppley

Carl Goeringer, Sr. by Grace Goeringer & Family

Justine & Deatra Martin by Terry, Jennifer, Jessica & Andrew Martin

Emery & Cornelia Havrilla and Willard Sutton by Chris & Dave Sutton

Edwin T. Roth by Pauline & Jim Roth

Loretta Reese by Kim, Kelly & Lindsey Jacobs

Martin, Anna Russell, May, Katharine and Mary Ann by The Wenrich Family

Estelle Kelley by Hugh Kelley

Grandma Frey, Grandma Kasarda and Aunt Pat by The Kasarda Family

Dorothy & Sydney by Diana Dreher

In loving honor of:

My children Cori, Tara, Ryan, and Minda by Therese Gwilliam

Sarah Welker Schneider by Her Loving Children & Grandchildren.

The Holy Season by Chris & Dave Sutton

Our Family by Bonnie & Rick Hiscox

In thanksgiving:

For my entire family, especially George, my husband by Therese Gwilliam

By George & Edna Yatsko

The Sanctuary Candle is dedicated to the glory of Almighty God in memory of Mary Plashinski & LeeAnn Tonolli by Dan & Liz Plashinski.

The Christmas Bulletins are in loving memory of Cornelia & Emery Havrilla & Willard Sutton by the Sutton Family.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of Almighty God in memory of

Dale Jones and Ethel & Robert Riemensnyder by Carol Jones.