

A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols
The First Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 2024
10:00 am

The People stand and the ringing of the bell

Entrance Hymn *God rest ye merry gentlemen* **Hymnal 1982**
#105

A Bidding Prayer *the People remain standing*

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this community.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying: Our Father . . .

Presider and 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.*

Presider

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Lesson (Genesis 3: 1-15, 22-24) *Rebellion in the Garden*

Joy to the world

Hymnal 1982 #100

Second Lesson (Isaiah 40:1-11) *God's promise of redemption*

Comfort, comfort ye

Hymnal 1982 #67

Third Lesson (Isaiah 35: 1-10) *The promise of God's faithfulness*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Choir

Fourth Lesson (Luke 1:26-58) *The Angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 1982 #265

Fifth Lesson (Luke 2:1-20) *Jesus is born at Bethlehem*

In the bleak mid-winter

Hymnal 1982 #112

Sixth Lesson (Luke 2:21-36) *Jesus receives his holy name*

Once in royal David's city

Hymnal 1982 #106

Concluding Collects

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn

Angels from the realms of glory

Hymnal 1982 #93

Final 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.

Benediction

Presider

May Christ the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, fill us with grace to trust his promises and obey his will. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

God rest ye merry gentlemen

Hymnal 1982 #105

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Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2023 6:00 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Foley, Al
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God rest ye merry gentlemen

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Joy to the world

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Comfort, comfort ye

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Keep your lamps trimmed and burning (arr. André Thomas)

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The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Text: 10 10 12 10; Birjina gaztettobat zegoen; trad. Basque carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924. Music:
Trad. Basque carol.
Contributors: Andrew Wright, GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Traditional Basque carol, Traditional Basque carol melody

In the bleak mid-winter

Contributors: Christina G. Rossetti, Gustav Holst/ Arranged by Sherri Porterfield

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