

**Prelude:** Wayne Seppala

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #100 (1-3), "Joy To The World"*

**Opening Salutation**

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

**People:** *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Collect For Purity**

*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.*

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #36, "Emmanuel"*

**Children's Sermon** *(The people may be seated)*

*All children and parents are invited to come forward during the praise song for a short children's sermon followed by Godly Play in the Parish Hall.*

**Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

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.**

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #79 (1-2), "Away In A Manger"*

**The Lessons** *(The people may be seated)*

**The First Reading: Galatians 6:2-6**

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #96 (1), "Angels We Have Heard On High"*

**Psalms 147:13-20**

13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

**14 He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.**

15 He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

**16 He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.**

17 He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?

**18 He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.**

19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

**20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!**

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #99 (1-2), "Go Tell It On A Mountain"*

**The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**People:** *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 overtake 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 the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Celebrant:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** *Praise to you Lord Christ.*

**Hymn:** *(The people stand) #79 (1), "Little Town Of Bethlehem"*

**Sermon** Fr. Bob

**Confession of Sin and Absolution** *(The people kneel)*

**Celebrant:** Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

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

**The Peace** *(The people stand)*

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Announcements** *(The people may be seated)*

**Offertory:** "Angels, Shepherds, Kings and Stars" – St. Andrew's Choir

**Doxology** *(The people stand and sing)*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**The Great Thanksgiving** (*Eucharistic Prayer A, remain standing*)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** *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. [*Proper Preface*]

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:

**Sanctus (S125: Sung)**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

(*The people kneel*) 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: (*sung*)

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

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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. (*sung*) **Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to (*say/sing*):

***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.***

(*Spoken: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*)

(*Sung: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*)

***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Celebrant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

**Celebrant:** 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.

**Communion** *(The people may be seated)*

*Communion Hymn: #115 (1-3), "What Child Is This" & #109 "The First Noel"*

**Communion Prayer** *(Celebrant and those at home or not receiving)*

*My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart, as though you have already come. I embrace You, and unite myself with you entirely. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

**Post Communion Prayer** *(The people kneel)*

**Celebrant:** 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**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you this day and forever. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn:** *(The people stand) #87 (1-3), "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"*

**Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People:** *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Postlude:** *Wayne Seppala*

**Prayers at the Altar:** *Prayer Ministers are available in front of the altar for anyone seeking additional prayer.*