

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

The people gather in silence

Voluntary

The Lighting of the Christmas Wreath—Theme: Light (Welcome Home)

The appointed leader(s) approach the Christmas Wreath and begin with the following:

Reader We are home. We have watched for the Light.
(All candles are lit, including the Christ candle)

Reader Arise, shine. The Light of Christ has come.
People **The glory of the Lord is now with us.**

Reader Hear the Word of the Lord from the prophet Isaiah:
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. 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.

People **Glory to God in the highest! Peace on Earth and goodwill to all!**

Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.**
The Word became flesh and dwells among us.
And we see his glory. Amen and Amen.

The 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.**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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 WORD OF GOD

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come

and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8 (Prayed responsively)

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.

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.

**Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.**

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

**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.**

They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

**LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.**

**Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

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, according to the working of his great power.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. **Thanks be to God.**

+ The Holy Gospel Mathew 2:1-12

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Homily A marked period of silence follows the Homily.

The Nicene Creed

**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.

Musical Interlude

Prayers of the People

In the birth of Jesus Christ, among the poor of the earth, God has promised to comfort all peoples and to give gladness in exchange for sorrow. Assured by this promise, let us pray for all the earth and all its peoples, saying: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For the homeless and the hungry, that they may find refuge, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For those struggling in addiction, that they may find hope and recovery, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the cities of the earth, that they may be places of wisdom and justice, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For national leaders, courts, and legislatures, that they may protect the weak and serve in humility, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to war and conflict, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the holy church of God, that it may be made one, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For missionaries in all lands, that they may act in courage and love, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly, that we may treasure in our hearts the word spoken in our midst, merciful God. **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and especially for **Rudolph** McEwan, **Ryoko** Roberts, **Beth** Plumeri, **Leah** Underwood, **Becky** Toole, **David** Robbins, **Sarah** Robbins, **Valerie** Aguirre, **Vickie** LoMonte, **Judy** Wray, **Elayne** Karickoff, **Ruth** Mufandaedza, **Lee** Witcher, **Audrey** Witcher, **Deanna** Hill, **Sophia** Vaughan Morning, **Mary**

Mainwaring, **Katie Critcher, Denise Davis, Carmen Reeve, James Barber, Celia Nail, Betty Johnson, William Nail, Ginny Barber, Janice Fowlkes, Harriet Banner, Susan Tobie, Hugh Stohler, R**paul Smith **Lucas Sams, Missy Sams and Justin Sams**, for these we name before you in our hearts, and for those who will die this day, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For those celebrating birthdays this week: **Colin McEwan (1st); Patrick Plumeri (4th); Keith Reeve, Mike Wilson (11th)**, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For our own needs. *[Here other intercessions may be offered each ending with, merciful God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**]*

For those who die violent deaths rooted in racism, misogyny and homophobia and for those who mourn them, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the more than 800,000 citizens in this country and the millions across the globe who have died from COVID-19 and for those who mourn them, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who will die today; unsuspecting and unprepared, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the peace of Christ, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

The Exchange of Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: All things come from you, O God.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

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 our 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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ

our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voice with Angel and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name,

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death. We proclaim his Resurrection. And await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread also known as 'The Fraction' and continues with the following:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Healing Prayers

After receiving communion, those who desire healing prayer and anointing, may do so by gathering at the prayer desk located near the Chrismon Tree. There, a prayer partner will pray for you.

Prayer after Communion

The people stand or kneel.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

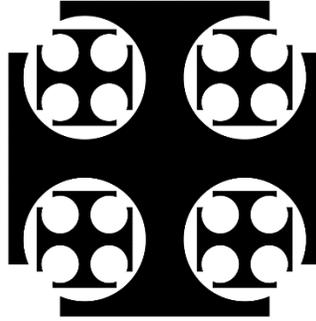
Dismissal

Presider Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

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

Voluntary

The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes, Presider



THE EPIPHANY CHALKING AND BLESSING

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

As we look ahead to the Epiphany, we affirm a long-standing custom of blessing homes in the New Year. Traditionally, a family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their homes and on all who live, work, and visit with them. In this way, they were inviting the Holy to be a guest in their homes, to be a listener in each of their conversations, to guide them through troubled times and to bless them in times of thanksgiving.

'Chalking the door' or the door step was used in a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion. In ancient times, the Israelites were told to mark their doors with the blood of the lamb on the night of the Passover to ensure that the angel of death would pass by. The Great Commandment taught by Jesus first appears in Deuteronomy, where we are also told to write God's commandment on our hearts, teach them to our children, and write them on the doors of our homes (Deut. 6:4-9). Many Jews follow the command by affixing mezuzahs, scrolls with the words of Deuteronomy, to their door frames. Chalking the lintel as a part of an Epiphany house blessing allows Christians to emulate this sacramental rite.

Therefore, in like fashion, we will bless our church home—marking the posts of the entrance to the Centrum after a long stint of being unable to worship here. We mark it as a sign of Christ's presence and rededicate it as a place of welcome and a house of prayer for all people.

Today, at St. Mark's, we are recovering this ancient ritual during this time of great pandemic. Over time and as the image of the chalk fades, we will remember the sign we made and transfer it to our heart and our habits.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

The Presider then takes the chalks and marks the lintel/posts with the following:

The Magi:

C	Caspar
M	Melchior
B	and Balthasar followed the star of God’s Son who became human
20	two thousand
22	and twenty-two years ago.
++	May Christ bless this place
++	and remain with us throughout the new year.

The setting is then blessed with incense as a symbol of this offering to God.

Prayer

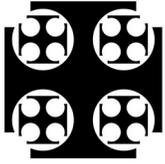
Visit, O blessed Lord, this place with the gladness of your presence. Grant that we may receive the power of your Word and the gifts of your bounty. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us; and preserve us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen**

The Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**



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Notes



Notes regarding today's service

You must wear a mask covering your nose and mouth at all times and maintain social distance with those who are not from your household.

Please avoid touching, kissing and handshakes.

All are welcome to participate in the service of Holy Communion and, at the appropriate time, may come forward to receive Communion which will be offered in one kind, **bread only** and will be administered by the Presider.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and for the safety of all who are gathered here, the following guidelines must be adhered to in order to receive Holy Communion.

1. Follow the directions of the Presider and/or ushers who will guide you and help facilitate the flow of traffic.
2. Wear your mask. Maintain 6ft. of distance between yourself and others who are not in your household.
3. When approached by the Presider, simply stretch out your hands to receive the consecrated bread.
4. **Do not remove your mask in the presence of the Presider. Rather, you will receive the consecrated bread in your hands and take it back to your seat.**
5. At the appointed time, the Presider may direct the removal of masks for Communion as the entire Assembly will consume the consecrated bread together.
6. After you have received the consecrated bread, quickly place your mask back on.
7. If you wish to participate in this service but would not like to receive Communion, you may come forward for a blessing. You will indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest and with hand stretched over you. Without physically touching you, the Presider will extend his hand over you and offer you a blessing.
8. Continue to wear your mask and maintain 6ft. of distance between yourself and others for the duration of the service and your time on campus.

Thank you for being a part of our assembly.

Please take this service bulletin home with you.

If you would rather it be recycled, then simply leave it on your seat upon exiting.