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## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MORNING PRAYER

Second Sunday after Christmas • January 5, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

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*Welcome to St. John's. We are happy you are joining us in worship today. Our service is printed here, with congregational responses printed in **bold**. Hymns are printed in the hymnals in the pews.*

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

“Noël”

*Henri Mulet (1878-1967)*

### HYMN • 109

“The first Nowell the angel did say”

*The First Nowell*

### OPENING SENTENCE

I was glad when they said to me,” Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**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.**

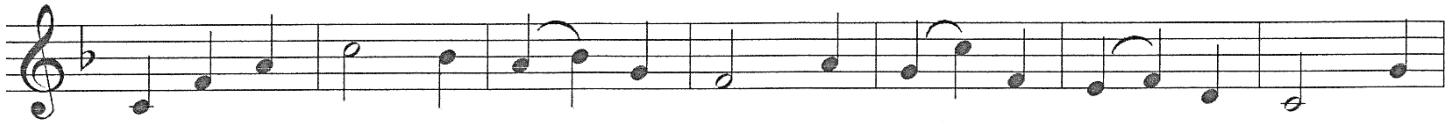
Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

### THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

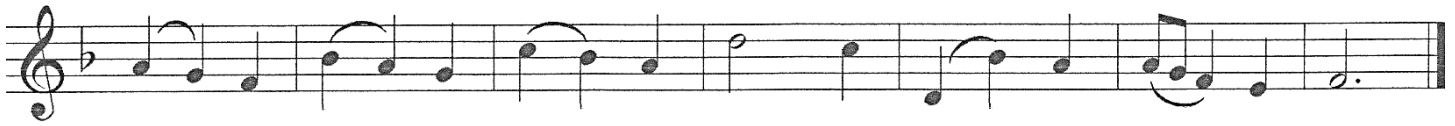
Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

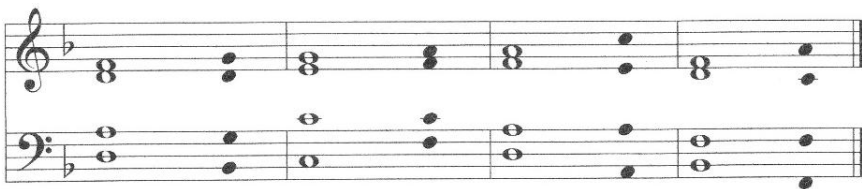


Be joy - ful in the Lord, you lands, And serve him all your days; Come  
 Know this: the Lord him - self is God; He made us all to keep; We  
 En - ter his gates with thank - ful - ness, With hymns of praise of there; Al -  
 The Lord is good, his mer - cy stands For - ev - er strong and true; And



now and stand be - fore the Lord With songs of love and praise.  
 are his peo - ple, his a - lone, His chil - dren and his sheep.  
 ways give thanks to him and call Up - on his Name in prayer.  
 so his faith - ful - ness en - dures, Age - old and ev - er new.

**PSALM 84:1-8** *Quam dilecta!*



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 you're A | nointed.

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.

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

**CANTICLE 16 • 438** (*The congregation remains seated, singing with the choir*)  
"Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord"

*The Song of Mary*  
*Woodlands*

# A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE 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.

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

## CANTICLE • S 278

Glory to God

*Gloria in excelsis*

*William Mathias (1934-1992)*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:  
re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the  
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



## A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

2:1-12

*(The congregation remains seated.)*

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 Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

*The Reverend Deacon John H. VanDine*

## HYMN • 124

*Puer nobis*

"What star is this with beams so bright"

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**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

### THE OFFERTORY



DONATE HERE

*An offering is received to support St. John's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. To donate online, go to [www.stjohnsboonton.org](http://www.stjohnsboonton.org) and click the "Give Here" icon on the right-hand side, or point your camera at our QR code on the next page.*

### ANTHEM

"Brightest and Best"

St. John's Choir  
*Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*

### PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,  
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,  
Praise Triune God whom we adore.

*Old Hundredth*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE PRAYERS

God be with you.  
And also with you.  
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

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**And grant us your salvation.**  
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**Let your people sing with joy.**  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## THE COLLECTS

### 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.**

### A Collect for The Holy Name

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Iant 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.**

### A Collect for Sundays

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for those in need

Loving God, protect all people suffering from violence or oppression. Comfort those who live in fear or loneliness. Bless prisoners and their families. Aid those who are sick, those suffering from addiction and those dear to our congregation, especially John L., Sister Eleanor and Michelle. **Amen.**

## **A Collect 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.**

## **THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

**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 ourselves 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.**

## **PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM**

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 • 92**

*Personent Hodie*

“On this day earth shall ring”

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

“In Thee is Gladness” \_\_\_\_\_ *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

## **LEADING AND SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY:**

**The Rev. Deacon John H. VanDine** *Officiant and preacher*  
**Mr. Kevin Bidwell** *Server*  
**Mr. Kevin Bidwell** *Lector*  
**Mr. Robert H. Gangewere, Jr.** *Organist Choir Director*

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