

“Yes And Amen”

Father of kindness You have poured out grace
You brought me out of darkness
You have filled me with peace
Giver of mercy You're my help in time of need
Lord I can't help but sing

Faithful You are
Faithful forever You will be
Faithful You are
All Your promises are Yes and Amen
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Beautiful Savior You have brought me near
You pulled me from the ashes
You have broken ev'ry curse
Blessed Redeemer You have set this captive free
Lord I can't help but sing

I will rest in Your promises
My confidence is Your faithfulness

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Children's Sermon

Patrick O'Connors

Collect of the Day (Celebrant and People)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading:

Reader: A reading from Micah. (5:2-5a)

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 3

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my **Savior**; * for he has looked with favor on his lowly **servant**.

From this day all generations will call me **blessed**: * the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his **Name**.

He has mercy on those who **fear him** * in every gener-**ation**.

He has shown the strength of his **arm**, * he has scattered the proud in their con-**ceit**.

He has cast down the mighty from their **thrones**, *and has lifted up the **lowly**.

He has filled the hungry with good **things**, * and the rich he has sent away **empty**.

He has come to the help of his servant **Israel**, * for he has remembered his promise of **mercy**,

The promise he made to our **fathers**, * to Abraham and his children for **ever**.

Glory to the Father, and to the **Son**, *and to the Holy **Spirit**:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall be**, *world without end. A-**men**.

Second Reading:

Reader: A reading from Hebrews. (10:5-10)

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

“The Word Whom Earth and Sea and Sky”

The Word whom earth and sea and sky

Adore and laud and magnify,

Whose might they show, whose praise they tell,

In Mary's body deigned to dwell.

To Mary the Archangel came

And God's new message did proclaim,

“Hail, Mary, you shall bear a son

Who shall be called the Holy One.”

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-55

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

“The Word Whom Earth and Sea and Sky”

Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought,
Most blest to bring to human birth
The long-desired of the earth.

Lord Jesus, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Words: Latin, 7th-8th C; Music: *Winchester New*

Sermon

Justin Doty

Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)

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.

Litany of Healing

The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

A Person appointed then leads the Litany

God the Father, your will for your people is healing and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

And in your light we see light.

Hear us, O Lord of life:

Heal us, and make us whole.

Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

We remember the faithful departed this day in whose memory the altar flowers are given:
To the Greater Glory of God.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen*

Peace (Please Stand As Able)

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory (Please Stand as Able) “Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King

Would welcome me

I was lost but He brought me in

Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Free at last He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin

Jesus died for me, Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God, Yes I am

In my Father's house there's a place for me

I'm a child of God, Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me not against me

I am who You say I am

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Presentation

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Amen

Great Thanksgiving (Please Stand As Able)

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; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Sanctus

Hymnal, S129

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

The Celebrant continues (You may stand, sit or kneel)

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues

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 Saint Paul and 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.

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

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Agnus Dei

John Merbecke, 1549



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive in one kind is considered full communion. If you choose to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know as you kneel at the altar rail. For those who wish to intinct the Bread by dipping it in the Wine rather than drinking directly from the larger Chalice, please signify this choice by holding the consecrated Bread between your fingers as you approach the first and smaller Chalice. After you receive the sacrament, healing teams will be available at the Altar rail to pray with you.

Communion Songs

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every long-ing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

“Rejoice”

Humbly You came to save
To offer all Your grace and love so amazing
Let every heart adore
The Savior Christ our Lord who's mercy's un-
failing

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to the earth

Rejoice Emmanuel God with us
Rejoice Emmanuel God with us

Let all the earth proclaim
There is no other name who grants us salvation
The hosts of heaven sing
To praise our newborn King the ruler of na-
tions

You are my hope you are my peace
You are the love the love that rescues me
You are my hope you are my peace
You are the love the love that rescues me

Anthony Hoisington | Chris Hoisington | Michael Bahn
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“What A Beautiful Name” (Please Stand)

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

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Postcommunion Prayer (Remain Standing)

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may

bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Verses 5-8)**

Hymnal, 56

Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

“O Thou of God the Father”

J. S. Bach

Pray It Up!

Notice the Red and White prayer request cards in the pew? Each Sunday, fill out your request, put it in the red bowl on the table on the way to communion. Then take a card from the bowl either right then or after service. Pray for that request for one week. How comforting to know that your request is being prayed for and that you are praying for someone else's! You might just be praying for the person sitting next to you! Or, if you'd prefer - please send your request to St. Paul's at prayingnow2@gmail.com!

*

Upon entering the church, please turn off your cell phone or switch it to a worship respectful setting. Please be sure to dispose of all food and drinks before entering the church. Thank You!

Synthesis CE Study Guide

You may pick up a copy of the week's Synthesis CE Study Guide, as well as the following week's, for your personal use. They are located at the back of the church. Thank You!

Prayer Servant Teams

Prayer for any need or request is available at each service. After you have received communion, please see one of our trained Prayer Servant Teams (with the Blue Name Badges) who are available at the open side door at the entrance to the Vesting Room. Prayer is available in the Vesting Room, Hallway or Back Room as space is available. Our Prayer Servants are ready to confidentially take your request and pray for you and with you. Should you wish to schedule a private prayer time, please let Fr. Joe or Mary Perry, Prayer Ministry Leader (maryperry2@me.com) know and we will work with you to schedule a convenient time. Your Prayer Servants today are all who are available.

All money to be credited to your 2018 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 30th. Any money received after December 30th will be credited to your 2019 account. Thank you!

Covenant Envelopes for 2019

Covenant Envelopes for 2019 are in the back of the church. Please take yours and those of any friends who may be absent, as this helps us save on mailing costs. Please DO NOT use the 2019 goldenrod envelopes until the new year, and DO NOT use the 2018 blue envelopes after December 30, 2018. If you do not wish to use the covenant envelopes, as long as your gift can be identified, an account is established in your name and you will receive quarterly statements. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Miller, Financial Secretary, at 203-775-9587 or Bethmiller.stpaul@gmail.com Thank you

Calendar for the Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

Sun., Dec. 23	-	8:00 AM	-	Traditional Eucharist
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	Contemporary Eucharist
Mon., Dec. 24	-	Christmas Eve		
		5:00 PM	-	Family Service
		9:00 PM	-	Evening Service
Tue., Dec. 25	-	Christmas Day		
		10:30 AM	-	Holy Communion Service
Wed., Dec. 26	-	10:00 AM	-	Holy Eucharist and Healing
Thu., Dec. 27	-	7:30 PM	-	Music Night
Sat., Dec. 29	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		9:15 AM	-	PraiseKicks
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves

**Next Sunday — First Sunday after Christmas
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

Readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18; Psalm 147

Saint Paul's Staff

Rector
Wardens
Parish Office Coordinator
Organist and Choirmaster
Coord. of Contemporary Worship & Family Ministries
Sunday School Administrators
Sexton

The Reverend Joseph Shepley
Mary Perry and David Williams
Beth Miller
Kirsten Peterson
Patrick O'Connors
Nicole O'Connors
Doug Melody