

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas Eve—December 24, 2018

## Collect for Christmas

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. For to us a child is born, to us a

son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;\*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from  
day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations\*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be  
praised;\*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but  
idols;\*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his  
presence!\*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his  
sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the  
peoples;\*
- 8 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;\*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;\*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is  
King!\*"   
he has made the world so firm that it cannot  
be moved; he will judge the peoples with  
equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be  
glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;\*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for  
joy before the LORD when he comes,\*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness\*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the

glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## **Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you

is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Sermon

Fr. Guy Mackey