

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Greeting: God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day: What is the twelfth day of Christmas called?

- a) Baptism of the Lord b) Annunciation c) Holy Name d) Epiphany

Call to Worship

Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation!

Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.

God commanded, and we were created.

We are children of the Most High.

Praise God from the heights of heaven!

Praise God, all people of the earth.

God opens our eyes to see the light.

We will be called by a new name.

Men and women, youth and aged,

sing of God's glory; shout your praise.

God has made us heirs of promise.

We will praise God's holy name.

Prayer of Invocation

Faithful God, by whose Spirit all people and places become holy, lead us by your Spirit today. We have come to celebrate a birth that offers us rebirth. We have gathered that you might claim us as heirs, with Christ, of eternal life. United our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of this church might be quickened, renewed, and refocused. May your faithful people become a crown of beauty in your hands. Amen.

Hymn "A King Like This"

Galatians 4:4-7 *NRSV*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Psalm 148 *NRSV*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his commands!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 NRSV

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayers of Intercession

As children of God and heirs of the promise, let us pray to the Lord, saying,

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the holy church of God, that all who have been baptized into Christ may shine like the dawn,
bear witness to the Good News of Jesus, and light the way of salvation in Jesus's name. Let us
pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the earth, that governments and those in authority may protect the vulnerable,
shelter the oppressed, and pursue the way of peace. Let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For our city and for all places of human interaction and livelihood, that kindness may abound,
compassion prevail, and harmony endure. Let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the planet earth, our home, that we may honor her gifts, respect her limitations, and protect
her resources. Let us pray to the Lord: **Loving God, hear our prayer.**

For those troubled with illness, hardship, or conflict, that they may receive healing for their
bodies, release from their burdens, and mending of their wounds. Let us pray to the Lord:

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Hear us, O God, for our eyes have seen your salvation. Let your light shine through us and fill
the world with the radiance of your love revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Who with you and
the Holy Spirit reigns in glory.

(Time of silent prayer.)

We join together to give glory to God by praying:

The Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as your children. With Jesus our brother, we dedicate ourselves in ministry to the world, that we may live as heirs of your promises to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

Message "I Will Greatly Rejoice!" Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Go forth into the world rejoicing!

We go to spread the good news of Christ our light and our redeemer.

May God, redeemer of Israel, dismiss us in peace;
may Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary, uphold us in love;
may the Holy Spirit, the power of God, guide us in truth.
Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn "Mary, Did You Know"

Announcements

Readings for Next Week: Psalm 72:1-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.*