

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For 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 voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: S-125 | Holy, holy, holy Lord**

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, We 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 St. Nicholas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; 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

*At this time, Sunday School Children will return to the church.*

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

#### The Breaking of the Bread

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

#### Prayer for those joining on-line

**All** *In Union, O Lord with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament*

*of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.*

#### Directions for receiving Communion

*Approach the altar by the center aisle. Take a paper cup if you do not want to use the common cup and make a semi-circle. Receive a piece of bread to eat and offer your cup for the wine -OR- drink from the common cup. If you want only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you desire a gluten free wafer hold up 2 fingers. Wait until the Celebrant says, "Go in peace." to return to your seats.*

**Communion Hymn: H-116 | "I come," the great Redeemer cries**

#### Post-Communion Prayer

**Celebrant:** Let us pray. ***Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

#### The Announcements

**Stepping Stones** - St. Nicholas is signed up to serve a meal on Thursday, January 29th. Sign up is on the back door of the church. Please reach out to Deacon Dawn if you have any questions.

**Remember our Snow Emergency Plan** - An email with a zoom link will be sent before 7 a.m. if Church is closed due to dangerous weather. Anne+ may not be able to drive from Westminster, but she is glad to preside at a zoom Eucharist.

#### The Blessing

**Celebrant** May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

**Recessional Hymn: H-121 | Christ, when for us you were baptized**

#### The Dismissal

**Deacon:** Let us go forth to become a beloved community of God's grace where all belong. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**All:** ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**Postlude:** This Great Day (March of the Kings) | Traditional French Carol | Arr. by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.



**Prelude:** *Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine* | H. Percy Smith, Arr. by Cindy Berry

*The Celebrant blesses the water.*

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** ***And also with you.***

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

**Celebrant** We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*During the Processional Hymn, the Priest will use the asperges to bless the people with Holy Water.*

**Processional Hymn: H-135 | Songs of thankfulness and praise**

#### Welcome & Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, Amen.***

**Celebrant** There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People** ***There is one hope in God's call to us;***

**Celebrant** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People** ***One God and Father of all.***

**Song of Praise: H-48 | O Day of Radiant Gladness**

***This day, God's people meeting, his Holy Scripture hear;  
his living presence greeting, through Bread and Wine made near.  
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,  
from grace more grace receiving on this blest day of light.***

#### The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** ***And also with you.***

**Celebrant:** Let us pray together. *(A moment of Silence)*

***Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.***

*At this time, Sunday School Children will meet our Sunday School Team at the back of the church to walk together to the Roberta Miller Learning Cottage. They will learn about prayer and liturgy until we complete the Eucharistic Prayer. They will then rejoin us in the Lord's Prayer and remain until the end of the service.*

## Sunday School Song

***Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world; Stranger, friend, and neighbor too, He loves them as he loves you. Jesus loves the little children of the world.***

### The First Lesson

*Reader:* A Reading from the prophet **Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.” <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>“I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

## Psalm 29

### Prayed responsively by whole verse

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \* ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>***Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \* worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.***

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \* the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>***The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \* the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.***

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \* the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>***he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \* and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.***

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \* the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>8</sup>***The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \* and strips the forests bare.***

<sup>9</sup>And in the temple of the Lord \* all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>***The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \* the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.***

<sup>11</sup>The Lord shall give strength to his people; \* the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### The Second Lesson

*Reader:* A Reading from Book of **Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in

Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Hymn: H-132** | *When Christ's appearing was made known* (Verses 1, 3, & 5)

### The Holy Gospel

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 3:13-17

***All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

<sup>13</sup>Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord!

***All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## The Sermon – The Rev. Anne O. Weatherholt

### The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Celebrant* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

***People I do.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

***People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***People 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.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***People 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.***

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

***People I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

***People I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

***People I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

***People I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

***People I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* **May** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

### Prayers of the People, Form III

**In faith let us pray to God, responding with the words in italics.**

*Deacon:* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*We pause for silent prayer as we recall our sins and failures*

***All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

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

### The Peace

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

***All: And also with you.***

### The Offertory

*We remember Christ's offering & offer ourselves in return.*

**Offertory Anthem:** *Down to the Water to Pray* | Words: Traditional, Additional lyrics by P.C. | Music: Traditional, Arranged by Pepper Choplin | Mimi Yu, Alto soloist

*Let's go down, down to the water to pray,*

*down to the water to pray, down to the water to pray.*

*When I went down to the water to pray, studying about that good ole way,*

*how You supply eternal life, Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O brother; let's go down, let's go down, come on down.*

*O brother; let's go down, down to the water to pray*

*When I went down to the water to pray, etc. O sister; let's go down, etc.*

*When I went down, etc. O children, let's go down, etc.*

*When I went down, etc. O people, let's go down, etc.*

**Presentation of the Offering:**

**1. O God of planet, moon, and sun, we wonder, knowing all you've done, that you befriend the human race, and fill our lives with love and grace.**

**2. For miracles as large as space, as small as cells, as deep as grace, we offer you our thanks and praise, and pledge to serve you all our days.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

*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 God thanks and praise.***