

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

Psalm

Psalm 147

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

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.

The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

Before proclaiming the Gospel, the Priest says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Laura Newsom
 1st: Lincoln Randell
 2nd: Connie Fedrizzi
 2nd: Susan Schug
 6th: Gloria Akinson
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel
 7th: Isabella Newsom
 14th: Becky Supercinski
 21st: Ron Raif
 26th: Jeff Richardson
 27th: Don King
 28th: Kayla Smith
 31st: John Dawes

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Poinsettia Dedications

If you purchased a Poinsettia, please take home your Poinsettia after the service TODAY.

Mother Tracey Vacation

Mother Tracey will be out on vacation **December 26th-January 1st**.

Church Annual Meeting

We will be having a potluck lunch after the service on **Sunday, January 21, 2023**. Please bring a side dish to share.

Bishop Fisher

The Bishop will be with us on **February 11th, 2024**. If you are interested being confirmed, please contact Mtr. Tracey.

NEXT Sunday's Servers (01/07)

Acolytes: Javier Glave

Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse

Danny's Team: Stan Williams

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown

Greeter: Roxanne Brink

Lector: Javier Glave

Nursery Helper: Helen Daniel

Ushers: Bryan White

Vestry People: Bryan White, Roxanne Brink

Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Andrew McWhorter
- Bill Magee
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Bereavement For:

- Ray Mastrogiacomo Family

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
12/03/23	\$5,125	\$2,939	\$2,186
12/10/23	\$1,118	\$2,939	-\$1,821
12/17/23	\$1,336	\$2,939	-\$1,603
12/24/23	\$2,277	\$2,939	-\$662
YTD TOTALS	\$168,815	\$152,821	\$15,994

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

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