



December 31, 2017: The First Sunday after Christmas at 8:00 am

Welcome! Wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Holy Communion.

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Book of Common Prayer, p. 356

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st Lesson *Please be seated*

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. *(silence)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 147:13-21 *Read responsively by verse; the congregation is invited to read the verses in bold.*

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd Lesson

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. *(Silence)*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel *please stand*

John 1:1-18

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

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. *(silence)*

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon *Please be seated at the invitation of the Preacher.*

The Rev. Mark Smith

The Nicene Creed *Please stand*

**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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

The Prayers of the People *Standing or kneeling*

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence.*

Accept O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the blessings of family and friends, and for the loving care that surrounds us on every side. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the hope of resurrection and for all the departed, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

The Peace *Please stand*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements *Please be seated*

Presentation of the Offering *Please stand*

All things come of thee, O Lord.

And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer - Prayer A, p. 36

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The presider offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ. In response all say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The presider concludes with prayer for the coming of God's reign.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, By him, and with him, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Administration of the Sacrament *Please be seated.*

You are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Gluten Free wafers are available, on request, from the minister. On the left (West) side of the altar rail, the chalice is filled with white grape juice, as a sign of welcome for those who choose not to consume wine. On the right (East) side of the altar rail, the chalice is traditional red wine. Please feel free to cross the aisle for your preferred chalice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest.

Post Communion Prayer *Please kneel or stand* *Book of Common Prayer, p.365*

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 Christmas Blessing

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Marc Smith
Deacon	The Rev. Chester Hines
Lector	Lisa Hummel
Intercessor	Fran Caradonna
Chalice	Karen Payne
Acolyte	Earl Bonds
Usher/Greeter	Tito Gay
Altar Guild	Edna Allen, Esther Ezenwa

Announcements

Adult Forum and Intergenerational Formation remain in recess next Sunday, New Year's Eve. On January 7, Christian Formation returns with an Intergenerational Formation focusing on the visitation of the Wise Men.

Intergenerational Game Night- January 7th All are invited to our first intergenerational game night. Bring your favorite game and any leftover Christmas cookies you would like to share. We will provide the pizza and drinks. We will gather from 5-7:30pm, so please feel free to come and go as your schedule permits.

Epiphany Celebration: Visit of the Three Kings – January 7 at 10:30am Come celebrate the start of the Epiphany season as we welcome the three kings to Holy Communion. During our 10:30 worship, the Three Kings will enter as they follow the star to adore the Christ Child. After the 10:30am service, the children get to break open the star (piñata).

Choir Announcements: The choral program will be on break after Christmas and will start up again with rehearsal on January 4, 2018 at 7:30pm. If you are interested in singing with the choir, contact Mary Chapman (mchapman@holychommunion.net). The children's choral program will also begin later in January. Look for more announcements in the coming weeks!. If your child is in grades K-5 and would like to sing in Cherub Choir, contact Connor Scott (cscott@holychommunion.net). If your child is in grades 6-12 contact Mary Chapman.

MLK Music Festival— January 14: featuring music composed by St. Louis native, Rollo Dilworth, Dilworth is a composer of choral music, with emphasis in the areas of spirituals and gospel-inspired works. His research interests are in the areas of African-American music and music education curriculum and instruction.

Sunday Morning Breakfast Our dedicated group of Breakfast hosts will be back on January 7 to serve a delicious, hot breakfast in Mitchell Parish Hall from 9:00 until 9:15. A suggested donation of \$2 per person will be gratefully received, except for visitors or newcomers whom we welcome as our guests. **Breakfast hosts are needed for January, February and March. Sign-up to host a breakfast using the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.** Contact David Motherwell for more info (dmothe5626@aol.com).

Altar Flowers Our Flower Ministry volunteers do a fabulous job creating arrangements each week, and their work makes it easy and affordable to sponsor altar flowers. The cost is \$55 and all you need to do is use the sign-up sheet posted in the Lounge or go to our website's "Worship" page to find our online Altar Flower Donation form.

Annual Giving Update

Thank you to all who have made a financial pledge for 2018. We are on track for a record year at Holy Communion. You can see below that both new pledgers and returning pledgers have been generous. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so soon. The vestry is preparing our 2018 budget, and every pledge that comes in will help expand the ministry of Holy Communion. You can turn in your pledge card today in the offering plate, mail it back to the church, or pledge online at holychommunion.net.

2017 (final)	2018 (to date)
Total Pledges: 107	Total Pledges: 102
Total Pledged: \$225,497	Total Pledged: \$250,814

New pledges for 2018: 17

Percent of 2018 Pledgers under age 40: 20%

Historic Pledges Increase/Decrease : + \$8,148

Parish Office Holiday Schedule The Parish Office is closed next week for the holidays and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 9:00am. During that time, clergy can be reached for pastoral emergencies by calling the parish office and listening for the clergy emergency number at the end of the message. *Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!*



Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion, a welcoming and diverse community seeking to walk in the way of Jesus and to reveal Christ's reconciling love in our city, nation, and world. Children are especially welcome at Holy Communion, wiggles, noises, and all. There is a soft space at the back of the church, if your little one needs to play during the service. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a neighbor.

Staff

The Rev. Mike Angell, *Rector*
mangell@holycommunion.net

The Rev. Marc Smith, *Priest Associate*
msmith@holycommunion.net

The Rev. Chester Hines, *Deacon*
Cheyanne Lovellette, *Office Staff*
office@holycommunion.net

Mary Chapman, *Director of Music*
mchapman@holycommunion.net

Connor Scott, *Organist*
cscott@holycommunion.net

Heidi Olliff, *Children's Ministry Consultant*
hmolliff@holycommunion.net

Jerome Harris, *Sexton*

Vestry

Scott Ferguson, *Sr. Warden*

Susan Norris, *Jr. Warden*

Brian Barnhart, *Treasurer*

Angela Burroughs-Kelly, *Secretary*

Earl Bonds, Mary Haggerty, Shirley Mensah,

Pat Redington, Rebecca Rugen, Alisa Williams

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