

✠ ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

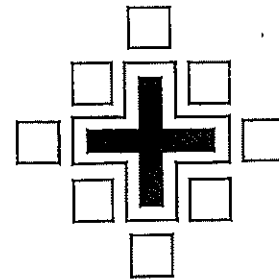
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First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023



INTROIT *Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 52:10*

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all
the | nations,*

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | **Amen.**

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the | nations,*

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation | of our God.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*

Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things!

READINGS

December 31: Is. 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56; January 1: Is. 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80; 2: Is. 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20; 3: Is. 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40; 4: Is. 63:15-65:7; Luke 2:41-52; 5: Is. 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20; 6: Is. 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38.

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Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

- ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul 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 like a
priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.
- ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be
quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as
brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the
hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who
were under the law, so that we might receive
adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are
no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then
an heir through God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification
according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and
Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to
present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in
the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first

opens the womb shall be called holy to the
Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to
what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of
turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now
there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name
was Simeon, and this man was righteous and
devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it
had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had
seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the
Spirit into the temple, and when the parents
brought in the child Jesus, to do for him
according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he
took him up in his arms and blessed God and
said,

- ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant
depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence
of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled
at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon
blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall
and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign
that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce
through your own soul also), so that thoughts
from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the
daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was advanced in years, having lived
with her husband seven years from when she
was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she
was eighty-four. She did not depart from the
temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer
night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very
hour she began to give thanks to God and to
speak of him to all who were waiting for the
redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed
everything according to the Law of the Lord,
they returned into Galilee, to their own
town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and
became strong, filled with wisdom. And the
favor of God was upon him.