

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

December 29, 2013



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1512 Willow
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas
Fr. John Scott Trotter

870 740 9777
www.saintstephensblytheville.org
www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #241 - Hearken to the anthem glorious

Opening Acclamation

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

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.*

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

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant 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.*

The people sit.

The Word of God

First Reading

A reading from The Book of Isaiah (61:10-11; 62:1-3).

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹
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.

² 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.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Psalm 147
Laudate Dominum

BCP p. 804

- 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!

A period of silence is kept.

Second Reading

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Galatians (3:23-25; 4:4-7).

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

The people stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #102 - Once in royal David's city

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:1-18).
Glory to you, Lord Christ

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

People
Praise to you, Lord Christ

The people sit.

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 people stand or kneel, as they are able

Prayers of the People

BCP 388

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Collect

BCP 237

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A period of silence is kept.

Confession of Sin

Penitential Sentence

The Presider then says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as they are able.

A period of silence is kept.

Confession of Sin

All say together

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Bishop or Priest

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.

People *And also with you.*

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The people sit.

Our work this week

BCP 343

The Priest says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

Offertory

As the alms are brought forward the people stand as they are able

The Hymnal 1982 # 380, vs 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures, here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel as they are able.

Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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 [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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 People respond Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**People and
Celebrant**

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

A period of silence is kept.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
 Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Priest invites the people to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance
 that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with
 thanksgiving.

All are invited to receive communion. Come to the rail, extend your hands one over the other, the minister will place bread in your palm, which you consume; to receive wine raise your hands, the minister will offer you the chalice, please guide it to your lips and sip. If you choose not to receive you may receive a blessing; cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you. You may choose to remain seated.

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #336 - Come with us, O blessed Jesus

The people stand or kneel, as they are able

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

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.

Blessing

BOS 23

The Bishop or Priest says

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #100 - Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Dismissal

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Prayers

Ronnie, Joe, Bill, Chris, John, Buzz, Dale, Angie, Marcel, Corbet, Cooper Richey, Charles, Renee, Carolyn, Sam, Sandra, Chris and family, Debbie, Harry, Evan, "E", Sarah and Ray, Leila & Diana Khouny, Claude, Jessica Williams and her family, Larry, Vince, John and Deb, Peggy and Dave, Charles, Tucker & Ellen, Jane Martel, Adam, Jenna, Mary-Gay, Carter & Charles, Dennis, those suffering from seasonal storms and fires, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name:

Calendar

12/29 Christmas 1

8:30 am Eucharist

9:30 am Fellowship

12/31 6:00 pm Alanon

1/3 6:00 pm Friday Families

1/1/2014 HAPPY NEW YEAR

1/5 Christmas 2

9:00 am Eucharist

10:00 am fellowship and conversation

Announcements

Change in service time

1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday 9 am Eucharist; 10 am fellowship and discussion

3rd Sunday 9 am Morning Prayer, 10 am fellowship

Worship Leaders

Date	Proper	Eucharistic Minister and Lector	Intercessor
12/29	Christmas 1	Liz Cato	
1/5/2014	Christmas 2	TBA	

Fr. Scott's contact

870 740 9777

frscott94@gmail.com



St. Stephen's contact

saint.stephens@att.net

www.saintstephensblytheville.org

www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville

870 763 8646



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