Christ The King Episcopal Church

40 Charleston Road, Willingboro, New Jersey 08046

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31, 2023. 9:30am



The Reverend Father Vernal Savage Priest-In-Charge

Welcome to Christ the King Episcopal Church

Welcome to Christ The King Episcopal Church in Willingboro, NJ, a vibrant and growing Episcopal parish in Willingboro, Burlington county, New Jersey. Over the past 60 years, the fabric of Christ the King has been woven by the Spirit from the lives and gifts of diverse people; their desire to live their faith through worship, service, study, and stewardship; and the ever-evolving life of Burlington County itself.

Our parish is guided by its mission to share God's love for all people. Together, we seek to build relationships with one another and with our neighbors, to cultivate compassion, to deepen our knowledge and spiritual practices, to work for justice rooted in essential human dignity, and to live as conscientious contributors to the life of our city and the Anglican Communion worldwide. As we grow together in service and love, we know ourselves, first and foremost, as followers of Jesus.

We are delighted to welcome you today; thank you for the gift of your participation and prayers. If you are new to Christ the King, please introduce yourself to a member of the clergy or one of the Ushers.

About This Service

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Christmastide—the 12 days between the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day) and the Epiphany on January 6—is comprised of a string of ancient commemorations for saints and martyrs known traditionally as the Comites Christi, or "Companions of Christ." Christmastide festivals include those in honor of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr; St. John the Evangelist, credited with authoring the fourth Gospel; St. Thomas à Becket, the martyred Archbishop of Canterbury; St. Sylvester, and the Holy Innocents. The Holy Name of Our Lord, a major feast, is also observed annually on January 1.

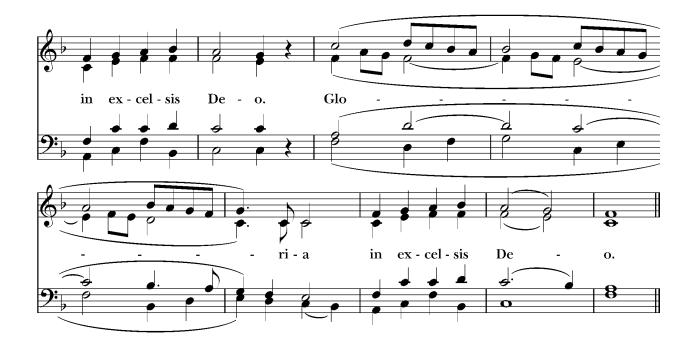
For Christian monastics in antiquity and the Middle Ages, this unbroken string of saints' days meant an extended reprieve from fasting; for Christians in all times, Christmastide is a period of joy, thanksgiving, and wonder at the transcendent love and faithfulness of Emmanuel, God With Us.

Worship Plan for Sunday, December 31, 2023 First Sunday After Christmas | The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

MEDITATION:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Angels we have heard on high (Gloria) (H 96)





OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

CelebrantAlleluia. Christ is risen.PeopleThe Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

The Celebrant may say

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.*

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE LEVAS 243 Glory to God or (BCP p. 356)

The following is sung, all standing

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name, Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. 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.

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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 (BCP P.357)

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 LESSONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

[Sarah Smith]

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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. ^{62:1}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. ²The 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. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147

Remain seated.

¹Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
³He heals the brokenhearted *

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[Sarah Smith]

and binds up their wounds. ⁴He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names. ⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom. ⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground. ⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp. ⁸He covers the heavens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth; ⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains * and green plants to serve mankind. ¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds * and for the young ravens when they cry. ¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; * he has no pleasure in the strength of a man: ¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, * in those who await his gracious favor. ¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion; ¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you. ¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat. ¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly. ¹⁷He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. ¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold? ¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. ²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, * his statutes and his judgments to Israel. ²¹He has not done so to any other nation; * to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

[Olin Mitchell]

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

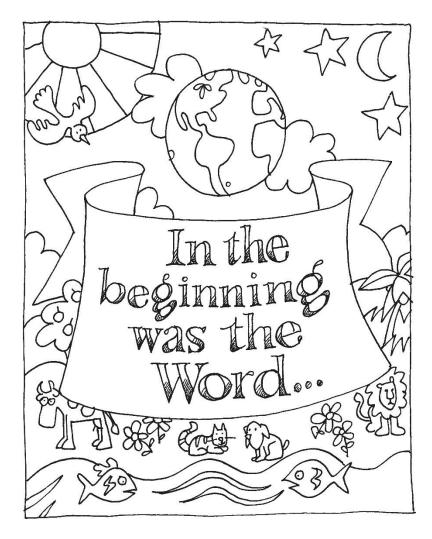
²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.



SEQUENCE HYMN Jesu, Jesu (LEVAS 74)

All stand.



GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

All stand.

DeaconThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory 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.

SERMON HYMN:

(Verse 1: "Alleluia" Verse 2: "God is with us")

SERMON

[The Reverend Father Vernal Savage]

THE CREED (BCP p. 326)

All 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. 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 392) Form 6

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
For [*N.* our Presiding Bishop, and *N.* (*N.*) our Bishop(s); and for] all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great. We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever. We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; Who put their trust in you. [We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence may be kept.

CONFESSION OF SIN:

The Deacon or Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

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.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Priest stands and says

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 (BCP p. 332)

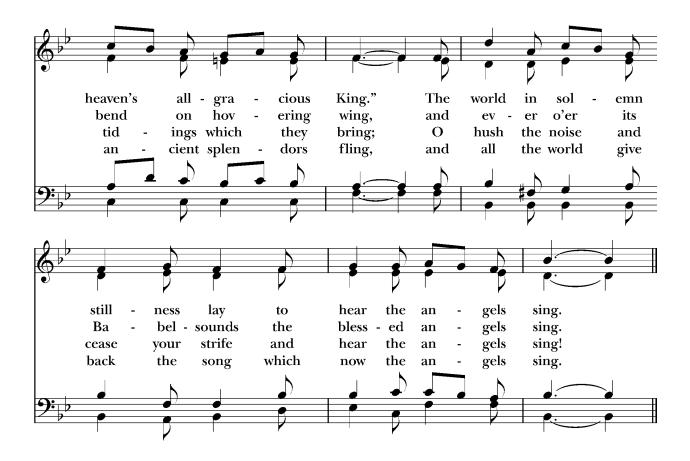
All stand.

Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And with thy spirit.

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



PEACE HYMN It came upon the midnight clear (Carol) (H 89)



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[By Maxine Harvey]

Announcements, not to exceed 150 words, are to be submitted to <u>ctk@christthekingnj.org</u>by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday preceding the Sunday you wish the announcements to run.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY HYMN: While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester Old) (H 94)



and on the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to men
 begin and never cease."

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 367)

The People remain standing.

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.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 367)

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said by celebrant

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (BCP p. 367) [LEVAS 252]

Celebrant and People

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 368)

The People stand or kneel.

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

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (LEVAS 260) We remember His Death



EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)

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 LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363) LEVAS 264

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

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM [LEVAS 268] Christ Our Passover (BCP p. 364)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;** Therefore let us keep the feast. **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;** Therefore let us keep the feast. **Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

SANCTUS: [LEVAS 269] Lamb Of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

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.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen] COMMUNION HYMN Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy) (H 324)



ABLUTION:

"Hallelu"

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, O Lord We Praise Your Name All the Glory, All The Praise, O Lord We Praise Your Name"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

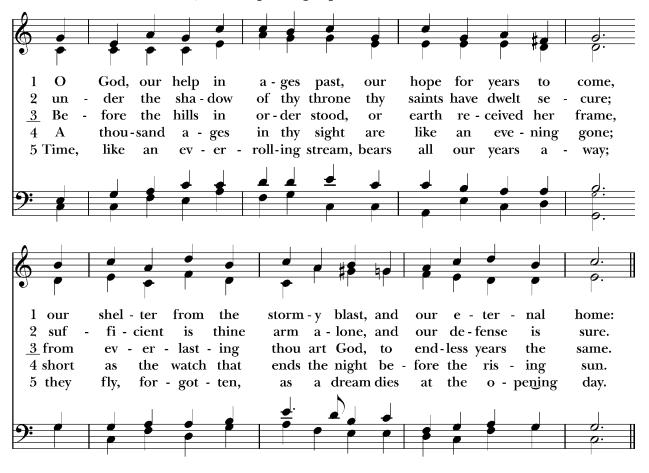
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

RETIRING HYMN O God, our help in ages past (St. Anne) (H 680)



6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)

People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Thank You, Lord (LEVAS 232)



FINAL PRAYER: By Priest or Deacon

Date	WORSHIP LEADER	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER	YOUTH LEADER	USHERS	COUNTING
Sunday December 24	Joan Burke Linda Anderson			Patricia Mitchell Regina Lamptey	Emerson Cooper Dan Gunning
Sunday December 31	Sarah Smith Olin Mitchell			JoyAnn Lambert Marcus Gales	Catherine Edwards Carolyn Booker
Sunday January 7				Hubert Lambert Janette Webster	
Sunday January 14				Gloria Davies Beatrice Ogboukiri	
Sunday January 21				Olin Mitchell Judith Richards	
Sunday January 28				Diane Staten Ransolina Roberts	
Sunday February 4				Patricia Mitchell Regina Lamptey	
Sunday February 11				JoyAnn Lambert Marcus Gales	
Sunday February 18				Hubert Lambert Janette Webster	
Sunday February 25				Gloria Davies Beatrice Ogbuokiri	

New Years' Service -

- a) New Year's Eve 2023 December 31st Service in the morning at 9:30am
- b) New Year's Eve Watchnight Service 2023 December 31st at 10:00pm (Carol singing begin at 10:00pm)