

## First Sunday After Christmas Day Morning Prayer

**Hymn:** Hark! The herald angels sing (Or what Ethan has chosen?)

### **The Collect for Purity**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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.

### **The Salutation**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

### **The Collect of the Day**

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 Invitatory and Psalter**

*Celebrant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Celebrant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Reading**

**Hymn:** Seek Ye First

**The Gospel & Sermon**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Christmas Prayers of the People**

*Celebrant:* Brothers and sisters, at this most holy time of our Lord's birth, let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers.

*Leader:* For Holy Cross, on this great feast of Christmas and all the parishes of our diocese, that the Church's whole soul may be consumed in praise as she sings to the Lord with melodious song for God's great mercy in giving us our Savior, we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

That the Christmas grace of peace may radiate out into the whole world, exercising its gentle influence on the hearts of world leaders and turning their thoughts to the poor and the lowly, we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

That as the Lord comforts his people and redeems Jerusalem, we too may bring comfort and joy in the name of Jesus to all those whose lives we touch.  
we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

That Jesus, who in his birth as one of us has made every human joy his own, may be at the heart of our family festivities, our gift giving, and every lovely custom we keep in his honor, we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

For those who keep a lonely watch in the night, those who have no one to care for them, that with the shepherds they may also know of angels who will bring them tidings of great joy in the name of Jesus, we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

For our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, that they may now see their Savior, unveiled in all his glory in heaven, we pray:

**People: O come, let us adore him.**

*Celebrant:* God of all humanity, accept the prayers we offer in the name of your child Jesus this holy night. As we welcome this mystery of your love, may we

delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom. Glory to you forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Christmas Blessing**

May Almighty God, who sent the only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of holiness.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain**

*Celebrant*            Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People*                Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!