



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God!

Thursday, Dec. 31st,
2020

Watchnight Service

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.

Liturgy of the Word

First Readings: Book of Numbers

The LORD said to Moses:

“Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

R. (2a) **May God bless us in his mercy.**

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

R. **May God bless us in his mercy.**

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

R. **May God bless us in his mercy.**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

R. **May God bless us in his mercy.**

Second Readings:

Galatians 4: 4-7

Brothers and sisters:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; In these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord. . .

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!



This Evening we are blessed to have
Ms. Tierra Stone present us with her Watch
Night Reflections of the year 2020!



OPENING PRAYER:

Lord of the opening way, we bring to you this night our past, with all that has happened in our lives, our hopes and our dreams, our successes and our failures, our gains and our losses. We bring to you our present, lives filled with exhaustion, wonder, fear, and concern. We come to you with hearts open to receive your word for us, for the future. We want to be part of your new heaven and earth, to serve you by serving others. Speak to us, heal us, teach us, protect us, lead us, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Call to Worship

Leader: What a year this has been!

People: **So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.**

L: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

P: **Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.**

L: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow—the Year 2021!

P: **We don't know what it will hold for us.**

L: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

P: **Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.**

ALL: Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence. AMEN.

L: Tonight we are keeping watch.

P: **Tonight we say goodbye to the old year and look hopefully into the new year.**

L: Though the darkness is deep, the Light of the World guides our way.

P: **Even though we don't really know what is to come, we know that God is with us.**

L: Quietly, reverently, open your hearts to God

P: **Praise be to God, who was and is and is to be. AMEN.**

Reflection: Ms. Tierra Stone

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our church family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

God is making all things new. The past is over and done. It taught us many lessons. But God is the God of the future, new opportunities, new hopes, new dreams, renewed vision. God dwells with us to be our God. We are not alone and so we say: Thanks be to God. AMEN.