**Voluntary**: Savior of the Nations Come J. Pachelbel

**Opening Hymn**: Comfort Comfort ye my People

**Invocation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Presider* | Blessed are you, holy and living God |
| *People* | **You come to your people and set them free. Amen.** |

**Litany**

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light. **You are with us, O God, in the darkness and in light.**

It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe - blankets of stars, the solitary glowing’s of distant planets. It was the darkness that allowed the magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay. **You are with us, O God, in the darkness and in light.**

In the darkness of the night, desert people find relief from the cruel relentless heat of the sun. In the blessed darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt. **You are with us, O God, in the darkness and in light.**

In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed. In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still. **You are with us, O God, in the darkness and in light.**

In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God’s presence in a special way – the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless; those who are demoralized and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness. Sometimes in the darkness, we remember those who are near to our hearts – colleagues, partners, children, neighbors, friends. **You are with us, O God, in the darkness and in light.**

Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And, in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey.

**We know you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopefulness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God’s Hope. Amen.**

**The Confession and Absolution**

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Presider* 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.

**Kyrie** S-96

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe eleison. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

**The Collect of the Day**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Presider* | The Lord be with you. |
| *People* | **And also with you.** |
| *Presider* | Let us pray. |

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah** **11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,   
the spirit of counsel and might,   
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
. and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord  
*People* **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

### *Diagram Description automatically generated*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously \*

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*

who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*

and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

**A Reading from the Letter to the Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord  
*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn**: #542 Christ is the world’s true Light

### **The Gospel of Matthew 3:1-12**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:   
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,   
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

# Sermon Fr. Frank

**The Nicene Creed**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Gives us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare and the faith to trust in you. O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region, from city to town, together in a spirit of love and respect. We pray that the leaders of all nations demonstrate wisdom and a heart for the good of their people and peace between neighbors. We pray especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, Bishop Mauricio and the Diocese of Brasilia, for Frank our priest, Cathy our deacon, Joél our seminarian, and in the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the leaders and parishioners of St. Timothy’s, Indianapolis, the Revd Rebecca Nickel. O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and suffering, the anxious and the grieving. Today we pray for **Sue, Coral, Maria, Ann, Cheryl, and John.** *(Please add your own prayers in silence or by naming aloud those for whom you wish to pray).*O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints. *(Please add your own prayers in silence or by naming aloud those for whom you wish to pray).*O come, O come, Emmanuel. **Be our hope and our salvation.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**Offertory Music:** Bells, Savior of the Nations, Come arr. Cathy Mocklebust

**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer B

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Presider* | The Lord be with you. |
| *People* | **And also with you.** |
| *Presider* | Lift up your hearts. |
| *People* | **We lift them to the Lord.** |
| *Presider* | 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

**Sanctus S-130** *Sung by all*

**Holy, 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.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider 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 Matthew 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.**

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

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Agnus Dei     S-161**

**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.**

**Communion Hymn**: #60 Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 1, 2, 6)

**Meditation after Holy Communion**

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be

*After Communion, we invite you to extend a hand of blessing for these donated pantry items.*

**You are our Bread of Life that sustains us as we strive to be your disciples and build up Your kingdom on earth. As we are fed by You, may we feed those who are hungry for bread, for justice, for understanding, and for compassion. May we share your mercy and grace with all we meet. Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

**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

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

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

**Closing Hymn:** #616 Hail to the Lords Annointed

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Organ Voluntary**

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE**

**LECTORS Marla Davenport, Jody Breakell USHERS/GREETERS Marla & Randy Davenport**

**INTERCESSOR: Wendy Blumenthal COUNTERS Jennifer Albrecht, Kevin Sterrett**

**CRUCIFER: Bonnie Godfrey OBLATIONS Michael Nugent, Suzanne Kissling**

**CHALICE: Bonnie Godfrey & Donna Olsen ALTAR GUILD: Team 1**

**St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church | Indianapolis**

is a parish of

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis

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