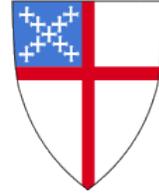


**Lessons for December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**



**First Reading: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Isaiah chapter 61 verse 10 to chapter 62 verse 3.**

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

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 147**

**Let us all stand and read Psalm 147, responsively by verse.**

1

**H**allelujah! 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!

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Galatians chapter 3 verses 23 to 25 and chapter 4 verses 4 to 7.**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**