

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

“Song of Mary” will be sung by choir after the Gospel Reading. This will take place of the Psalm.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

ASSISTING MINISTER: Linda Flora

LECTOR: John Bulger

GREETERS: John and Barbara Bulger

BELL RINGER: John Bulger

CRY ROOM: Located downstairs in the youth room. Also available are coloring books and crayons on the last pew in a green basket.

CALENDAR

MONDAY 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion



NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Sally Benjamin friend of Marcy Miller, Pete Carlino friend of Bruce and Sylvia Brackbill recovering from a heart attack, Lucy and Ralph sister and brother-in-law of Ralph Kusserow.

CONTINUED PRAYER: Shonna Ash friend of Sylvia Brackbill, Tom Brosenitsch brother of Tim Brosenitsch recovering from an accident, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch diagnosed with breast cancer, Jenny, Judy Hart, Adrienne Haegg.

[The complete prayer list is in the December newsletter.]

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST SUNDAY: 54 - \$1284.00

ALTAR FLOWERS

Are Given to the Glory of God by Thom and Colleen Cipro in loving memory of Thom's mother, Virginia Cipro.

FOOD CUPBOARD – DECEMBER

We will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly.

AT THE FONT

Drue Anne Yount daughter of William "Andy" and Sarah Yount. Sponsor is Daniel Paul Witkowski. May the Lord bless this child, parents and sponsor.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

7:00 PM Monday, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion.

December 30 – 9:00 AM – No Sunday School – Join us for our worship of Lessons and Carols.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2019 offering envelopes in the back of the church. Also if possible, please pick up envelopes and deliver them to family members that are not here today.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Daily devotionals for January, February and March are in the narthex bookshelf and on the table by the office for you to take home.

2019 FLOWER CHART

Is now up in the narthex. Please consider providing flowers for the Altar in the coming year.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Please have all articles for the newsletter in the office no later than Monday morning, December 31.

READING "LUKE" AS A SYNOD

The latest set of discussion questions for adults, youth and children while reading through Luke are currently posted on the Synod Facebook page and will continue to be posted weekly. You are invited to share your thoughts in the comments section as well to share these posts within our own congregation and communities. **Don't use Facebook?** Download the Reading Schedule: Part 1 which lists the same discussion questions being shared synod wide online.

VISITORS

If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the welcome cards in the pew racks. Also, please feel free to take home a monthly newsletter. We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.

Christian Leadership Fellowship Seeks Funding for Pittsburgh Creche

As most of us know, the downtown Pittsburgh Creche has been a vital part of Pittsburgh's Advent and Christmas seasons for almost 20 years. What is not known is that the Pittsburgh Community is in real danger of losing this important display of the Christian faith in Downtown Pittsburgh during "Sparkle Season" if independent funding is not found for this Purpose. Last year, the economic crisis was solved at the last minute by a number of generous donors. However, this important effort, which must be ecumenical in nature, will not succeed unless it becomes a much more broad-based project. It is hoped that many members of the Christian communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania will want to help with this endeavor. A Permanent endowment fund has been set up at The Pittsburgh Foundation, our local community Foundation, to receive gifts that can be used only for the erection and maintenance of the Pittsburgh Creche. No gift is too small not to be considered important. It is hoped that as people visit the Creche through the Advent and Christmas seasons, many parents can tell their children that their family assisted in this important ecumenical project. **Any and all donations should be directed to the Creche Endowment, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Five PPG Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. For further information about this endeavor, please feel free to contact Kelly Uranker at The Pittsburgh Foundation at 412-394-2604.**