Sunday, January 21, 2024: The Third Sunday after the Epiphany:

The Feast of Our Lord and Giver of Life

Theme: “The Borders of Compassion Enlarged”

Collect of the Day:

Oh great King of kings, let Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven for the sanctity of all human life. You have said that Your Kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Where there is unrighteousness, let righteousness come to bear; where there is hostility, cause Your peace to reign supreme; and where there is sorrow, bring joy in the hearts of people. Lead us into Your unshakable and everlasting Kingdom in which You reign forever and ever, that truly the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: Jeremiah 31: 10 -17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 10: 2,3; 8,9; 16,17

New Testament Proclamation: 1 Corinthians 15: 19 - 26

Gospel Proclamation: Matthew 18: 1-5

Gradual Verse:

Be children of God above reproach, as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of Life.

Prayers of the People Option I:

 You may use the following:

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church, and for the world.

Minister: Father, we pray for Your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Minister: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve You;

People: That Your Name may be glorified by all people.

Minister: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Bishop Craig and Bishop Ariel;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of Your Word and Sacraments.

Minister: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Minister: Give us grace to do Your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in Your sight.

Minister: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Minister: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Minister: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Minister: We praise You for Your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in Your heavenly kingdom.

Minister: And we lift before You this parish, in the manner in which You have given unto us:

*People: As we pray our Corporate Petition.*

*or the following alternative:*

Prayers of the People Option II:

Deacon: Dearly beloved brethren, this day is holy to our Lord. Let us come before Him on behalf of all life.

Minister: Almighty and merciful Lord, we bring before You those who are dishonored by many in today’s world. Uphold the preborn, the fetuses in the womb;

*People: For in them is Your life, and all life is sacred.*

Minister: Uphold those who, because of age, sickness, or mishap, have bodies which no longer perform as they once did;

*People: For in them is Your life, and all life is sacred.*

Minister: Uphold the captives imprisoned because of injustice or their own error;

*People: For in them is Your life, and all life is sacred.*

Minister: Uphold the poor, the needy, and the downtrodden, marginalized by society but precious in Your sight;

*People: For in them is Your life, and all life is sacred.*

Minister: Uphold those who are unwell in body, soul, or spirit;

*People: For in them is Your life, and all life is sacred.*

Minister: Uphold us as we strive together in our Project of Love to foster reverence for all life;

*People: Answer our Corporate Petition.*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: Bestow Your favor upon all life, O Lord our God, that all Your children may be filled with Your joy and dwell in Your strength. We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord. ***Amen.***

# Proper Preface:

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, O Lord, You are the Creator and the Giver of life, we as Your children eagerly anticipate the revealing of Your crowning glory to the entire world.

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of Your Name:

Benediction:

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty: ✠ the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. ***Amen.***