December 31, 2023: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Theme: “Enlarging the Borders of Salvation”

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 148

New Testament Proclamation: Galatians 4: 4-7

Gospel Proclamation: Luke 2: 22-32

Gradual Verse:

My heart stands in awe of Your words; and in Your Word You have made me hope.

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: Almighty Father, we lift before You Your holy catholic Church:

*People: That You would lead us in truth, baptize us in love, and unite us in spirit.*

Minister: We pray for her leaders, especially Bishop Craig and Bishop Ariel:

*People: That they may with one voice minister Your life to Your people and the world.*

Minister: We lift before You the people of this community, this nation, and the world:

*People: That we may honor one another and serve the common good.*

Minister: We pray for our governmental leaders, especially President Marcos:

*People: That You would lead them in the ways of justice and peace.*

Minister: We lift before You all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:

*People: That You would send Your comfort and grace upon them.*

Minister: Give to the departed eternal rest:

*People: Grant that we may share with them in Your everlasting Kingdom.*

Deacon: 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: Beloved in the Lord, let us come before the throne of our Abba Father, as His children who depend upon His love and care.

Minister: May the eyes of Your children see Your salvation, O God;

*People: As you bring us to maturity in Christ.*

Minister: May the eyes of Your saints see Your glory, O God;

*People: As You fulfill all things according to Your good purpose.*

Minister: May the eyes of Your Bride see Your lovingkindness, O God;

*People: As we walk in the gifts of the Spirit and bear the fruits of the Spirit.*

Minister: May the eyes of the elderly see Your hope realized in their generation, O God;

*People: As You bring Your peace upon them.*

Minister: May the eyes of Your heirs see Your Kingdom, O God;

*People: In the faith, hope, and love that abide forever.*

Minister: May the eyes of war’s victims see Your peace, O God;

*People: As the Prince of Peace rules over the earth.*

Minister: May the eyes of the nations see Your righteousness and justice, O God;

*People: As Your dominion fills the earth.*

Minister: May the eyes of the infirm see Your healing, O God;

*People: As they are made whole by the stripes of Christ.*

Deacon: May the eyes of this Church under Construction see Your provision, O God;

*People: As You answer our Corporate Petition.*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: May the eyes of us all see Your ways, O God, and come to know You, and make You known, as You reveal Your majesty in these days. All this we ask through Christ our Lord.

*All:* ***Amen.***

# Proper Preface:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through Him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth in splendor: when our frailty is assumed by Your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honor, but by this wondrous union, we too are made eternal.

And so, in company with the choirs of angels, we praise You, and with joy we proclaim:

Benediction:

May Almighty God, Who sent His Son to take our nature upon Him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of His holiness; may He make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love; and the blessing of God Almighty: ✠ the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. ***Amen.***