

HOLY EUCHARIST

December 24, 2020

09.00 P.M.

**The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve
Carols and Holy Mass**

**Liturgy: The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Eucharistic Prayer A**

Celebrant : Fr. George Joseph



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

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LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude

Introduction

Please stand at the tolling of the bell.

The Bidding Prayer

Priest: Father, you make this holy night radiant with the splendor of Jesus Christ our light. We welcome him as Lord, the true light of the world. With the birth of your Son, your glory breaks on the world. Through the night hours of the darkened earth we your people watch for the coming of your promised Son. As we wait, give us a foretaste of the joy that you will grant us when the fullness of his glory has filled the earth, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray that in the peace of Christmas midnight our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever. Bring us to that eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today as we joyfully prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger, help us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and as we remember his birth with hymns and songs of praise, make us one with the Word made flesh for evermore. Amen.

Let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

All: 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All: Amen.

Please be seated

Hymn 1 : *It came upon the midnight clear (Noel) (H 90)*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 2 : *In the bleak midwinter (Cranham) (H 112)*

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 3: *God rest you merry, gentlemen (God Rest You Merry) (H 105)*

The Third Lesson: St. Luke 2:1, 3-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 4: *O little town of Bethlehem (St. Louis) (H 79)*

The Fourth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Please stand.

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was

in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him,

to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 5: *The first Nowell the angel did say (The First Nowell) (H 109)*

Welcome and Announcements

The congregation kneels.

The Collects and Blessing

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness. May God who sent his angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Saviour's birth fill you with joy and make you heralds of his gospel. May the Word that became man, give you his peace and good will and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRELUDE

Please enter the sanctuary quietly. If you are in the sanctuary or attending live stream, this is time to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

Blessing the Crib

Introduction

OPENING HYMN *Hark! the herald angels sing*
(*Mendelssohn*) (H 87)

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

INTROIT *Choir*

Kyrie eleison (Greek) (BCP p. 324)

The following is sung, all standing

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison, Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

GLORIA S 280 *Gloria in excelsis*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant **The Lord be with you.**

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant **Let us pray.**

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Remain seated.

1Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

- 2Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

11The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the
glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave
himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify
for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed*
(*Cradle Song*) (H 101)

Silence may follow.

THE GRADUAL THE ALLELUIA

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Fr. George Joseph

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)

All remain standing or kneel.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop George Sumner, George Joseph our Priest and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Donald our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those celebrating their anniversary of birth and those celebrating their anniversary of wedding let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For comfort, strength, guidance from the Holy Spirit, especially for Larry, Ashley, Susie, Cathy, Sese, Valerie, Kate, Arthur, Mrs. Das, Edgar, Jannie Nel and family, Fatima and family, Conrad Vermaak and family, Kristina, Steve, Achille, Michelle, Jay, Brenda, Merle Wells, Catherine, Marla, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are sick - Robert Delk, Graham Clarke, Chuck, Ben Doherty, Claude Lee, Jerre Gibbs, Edgar, Joeline, Michelle, Fred, Sam, Destiny, Marla, Jean, Clint Harron, Bruce Magers, Bob Bowser, Laura, Corey, Ebin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, Ministry with Aging Rural Church Commission, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer -Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Church of the Holy Cross- all the members, former members and friends of the Holy Cross. For their life and contribution to the ministry of this church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of resurrection, especially, Rowland R Davis, Fannie R Bunkhardt, Mary E Amacker, Barbara J Glass, Angus Jones, Harold J Forst, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

As the priest prepares the altar for communion, people prepare their hearts in silence for the Eucharist.

All stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles) (H 83)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 368)

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, Therefore,
according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

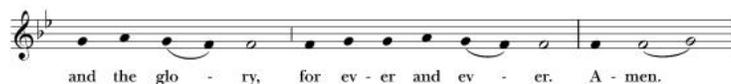
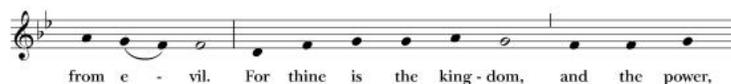
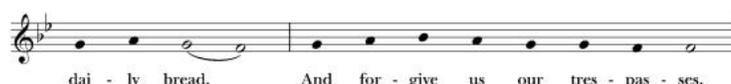
EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)

The Celebrant continues

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363). S-119

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold
to say,

People and Celebrant



The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM S 158 *O Lamb of God (Willan)*



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

INVITATION (BCP p. 338)

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

COMMUNION HYMN

Angels we have heard on high (Gloria) (H 96)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Celebrant : Let us pray

The People may join in saying this prayer

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.

HYMN *Silent night, holy night (Stille Nacht) (H 111)*

BLESSING (BCP p. 339)

The Priest blesses the people

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the world! the Lord is come (Antioch) (H 100)

POSTLUDE