

Grace Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve



Festive Choral Eucharist with Brass at 7pm

Liturgy of the Word

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and rejoice in His coming to us, we light the Christ candle.

People **Jesus Christ is our hope. He is our peace. Jesus Christ is our joy. He is love – pure, holy, undying love.**

Leader God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymnal #83

Remain standing

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

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

The Presider says the Collect for Purity

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.**

The following is sung, all standing

Hymn of Praise

Hark! The herald angels sing

Hymnal #87

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for Christmas

All sit

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness--
on them light has shined.

You 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.

For 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.

For all the boots of the tramping
warriors
and all the garments rolled in
blood
shall be burned as fuel for the
fire.

For 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.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his
kingdom.

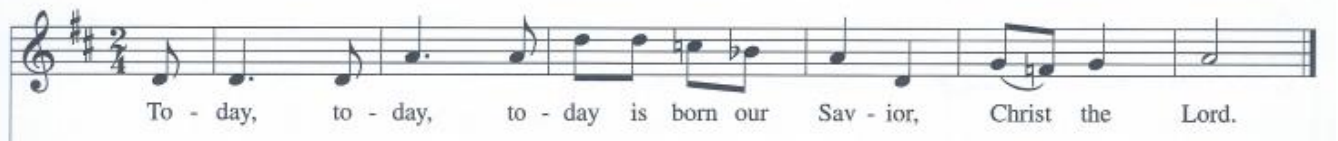
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

Reader *Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.*
People *Thanks be to God.*

Remain seated

Psalm 96



1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. *Refrain*
2. Proclaim God's help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. *Refrain*
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy. *Refrain*
4. At the presence of the Lord who comes, who comes to rule the earth, comes with justice to rule the world, and to judge the peoples with truth.

A Reading from Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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 *Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.*
People *Thanks be to God.*

All stand

Hymn

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night

Hymnal #94 (vs.1-3)

Holy Gospel a reading from Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

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

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

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Hymn

The First Nowel the angel did say

Hymnal #109(vs 1-3)

Homily

The Rev. J. Jeffrey Baker

Nicene Creed

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.

Presentation of the Christ Child

Away in a Manger

Words and Music by
J.E. SPILLMAN
and MARTIN LUTHER

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed, The
Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close
lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down His sweet head. The
by me for - ev - er and love me I pray. Bless
stars in the heav - ens looked down where He lay, The
all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care And
lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep in the hay.
take us to Heav - en to live with Thee there.

Presider The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
People And we beheld his glory

Presider The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Let us pray:

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Hymn

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal #96

Christmas Bidding Prayer

All remain standing. The Intercessor introduces the prayers

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let 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 let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. Remembering in prayer : Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Anne, our Diocesan Bishop, and for Father Jeff, our Interim-Rector.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember in prayer: Aaron Lephart, Valerie Lephart, Margaret, Gerald and Nancy Brothers, Karl Kramp, Ray, Beth, Belle, Cheri L., Bill, Janet, Chris, Matthew and Janice, Jeanne K., Dorothy Ferguson, Pat & Ray Newyear, Sheila S., Deb B., Carolyn Stacks, George & Sandra Luther, Chuck Yaichner, Chris Junda, Tim Mackey, John and Joyce Hoste, Bev & Ken Schutt, Susan S., Mark S., Mary, Tara T., Teddy Trump, Frank Burkacki, Lucille P., Kathy Hill, Julie M., Caroline H., Jeanne Schupp, Debra Z., Shirley Wilkes, Jennifer M., Clint N., Kevin Fries, Susan Shepard-Krysiak, Dick Dearborn, Jamie, Jodi, Jess, Patty and Mike. Joe, Amelia Nash, Karen, Sarah, and Margaret G., Drake, Willow, Luke B., Bill Lang, Cathy Waller, Bob, Katana E., Jeannine Wendorff, Fred B., Geri, Sue, Paul, Mike and Riley Gumto. The Littler family, and family and friends.

We pray for those who have died, unknown to us, in the course of their lives in the service of their country, and We pray especially for the soul of ___ may ___, with all of God's saints, rest in peace and rise in glory.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Peace

All stand

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord

Announcements

Holy Communion

The Presider says the offertory sentence

Offertory Anthem

Festive Noel!

Grace Choir

Doxology

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Hymnal #99 verse 1

Members of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving – Eucharist Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal # S130

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal # S133

Presider

There fore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Great Amen



The Presider then continues

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

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.

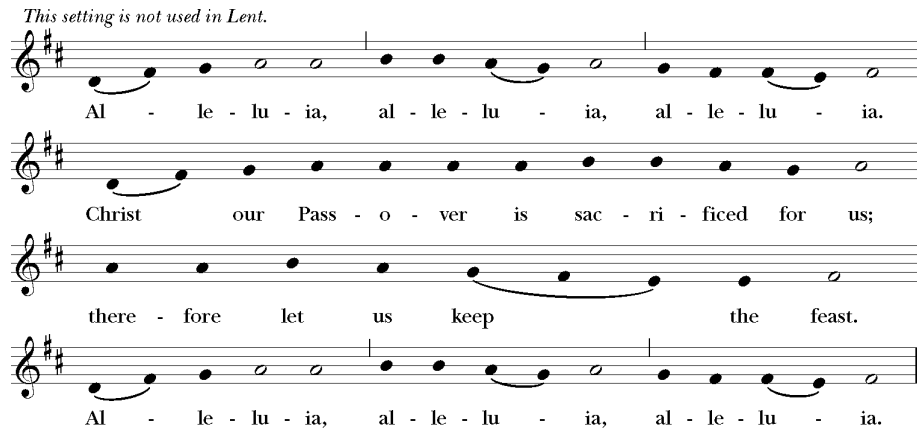
Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal # S154

This setting is not used in Lent.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Presider says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome at God's table to receive the bread and wine or a blessing.
 To receive a blessing in place of communion, please fold your arms across your chest.*

Communion Hymn

What Child is This?

Hymnal #115

After Communion, the Presider says
 Let us pray.

Presider and People

**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.**

*As we prepare to sing Silent Night the first person's candle in each pew will be lit by the Torch Bearer
 ~ please pass it on.*

Post Communion Hymn

Silent Night

Hymnal #111

The Presider blesses the people

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal #100

Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Seasonal Brass

+ + + + +

Welcome

If you are visiting with us tonight, we hope you will leave as a friend. We feel truly blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. Please sign the guest book located near the entrance.

Children's Worship Busy-Bags and soft toys are available from the ushers. Please return them following the service. Rocking chairs are available in the rear of the church for restless children and adults.

At Grace Episcopal Church all baptized persons are invited to receive communion. Gluten free bread is available. Please let the ushers know if you would like to receive the bread in that form. If you prefer, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you.



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The Reverend J. Jeffrey Baker
Interim-Rector