

**THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 24, 2020**

PRELUDE

<i>What Child Is This</i>	arr. V. Slater
<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	arr. W. Held
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	arr. D. Cherwien
<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	arr. D. Schelat

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 323)

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

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

**COLLECT FOR PURITY AND GREAT
COMMANDMENTS (BCP p. 323)**

The Celebrant says

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great

commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE (BCP p. 324)

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *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.

PSALM: Psalm 96

- 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

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.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

All stand.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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!”

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¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON (BCP p. 326)

THE CREED (BCP p. 326)

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: The Savior is born in Bethlehem, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us make our prayers and supplications unto Almighty God, saying, "*Lord have mercy upon us.*"

All kneel.

Lector: For the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of God -- and especially for The Diocese of Springfield, The Episcopal Church, and The Anglican Communion; that it may be filled with the spirit of truth, unity and concord, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all bishops and other ministers -- and especially for Daniel, Michael, and Justin; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth the true and lively Word of God, and rightly and duly administer His holy sacraments, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all the holy People of God, for Trinity Church; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive the holy Word of God, truly serving Him in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our President Donald, our President-Elect Joseph, and our Governor J B, that God may lead them to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world; and for all those serving in active military service and law enforcement; let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all the people of the earth that God would open their eyes to see His gracious hand in all His works; and that, rejoicing in His whole creation, they may honor Him with their substance, and be faithful stewards of His bounty, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, or sickness; that God, in His goodness, would comfort and succor them in their adversity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For all God's servants who have departed this life in His faith and fear; that God would grant them continual growth in His love and service, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

For the grace to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. George, St. Andrew, St. Patrick, St. David, and all His saints; that with them we may be made partakers of His heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: Almighty and most merciful God, who sent Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to share in our humanity, that we might share in His divinity; fulfill now the desires and petitions of Thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in This Age knowledge of Thy truth, and in the Age to Come life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 330)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter G. Holst

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 333)

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 333)

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS (BCP p. 333)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 334)

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 337)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP p. 337)

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

INVITATION (BCP p. 338)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 339)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Silent Night

arr. A. Jordan

BLESSING (BCP p. 339)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in
the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

G. F. Handel

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