

# THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2023

## PRELUDE

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella* arr. D. Lasky

*Joseph Dearest* arr. R. Warner

*Shepherds* arr. W. Held

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* arr. J. Biery

# The Word of God

*The Bell is rung; all stand for the Entrance Hymn.*

## Entrance Rite

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles) (H 83), vss. 1, 2, 3 & 6*

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

### COLLECT FOR PURITY AND GREAT COMMANDMENTS

*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.

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,

good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,

we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give

thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly

King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.

4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the  
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.  
8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou  
on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most  
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. —  
A - - - - - men.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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           The Word of the Lord.  
People           Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: Psalm 96

- <sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- <sup>2</sup>*Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.*
- <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup>*For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.*
- <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup>*Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!*
- <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- <sup>8</sup>*Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.*
- <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- <sup>10</sup>*Tell 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."*
- <sup>11</sup>Let 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.
- <sup>12</sup>*Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.*

<sup>13</sup>He 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.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*All stand.*

**Cantor**       Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**People**        *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

**Cantor**       The Lord said unto me:  
                  thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee.

**People**        *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

**Celebrant**    The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**People**        *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*All kneel.*

**Lector:** Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Brian, Michael, Justin, Carlos, and Zachary, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially our President Joseph, our Governor JB, Cail, Courtland, Levi, Rankin, and Thomas, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. George, St. Andrew, St. Patrick, St. David, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

**Celebrant:** Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 330)**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*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,

which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

**THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.

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



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,

(WLP 858)

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

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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 CANON OF THE MASS

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

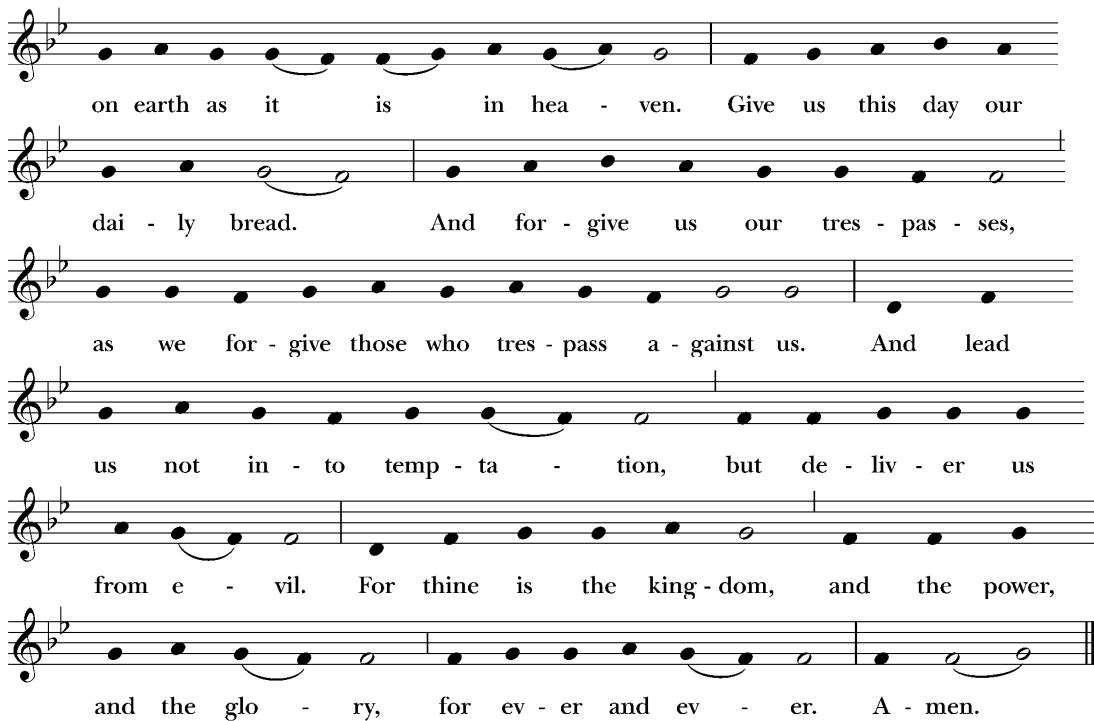
And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus 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.*

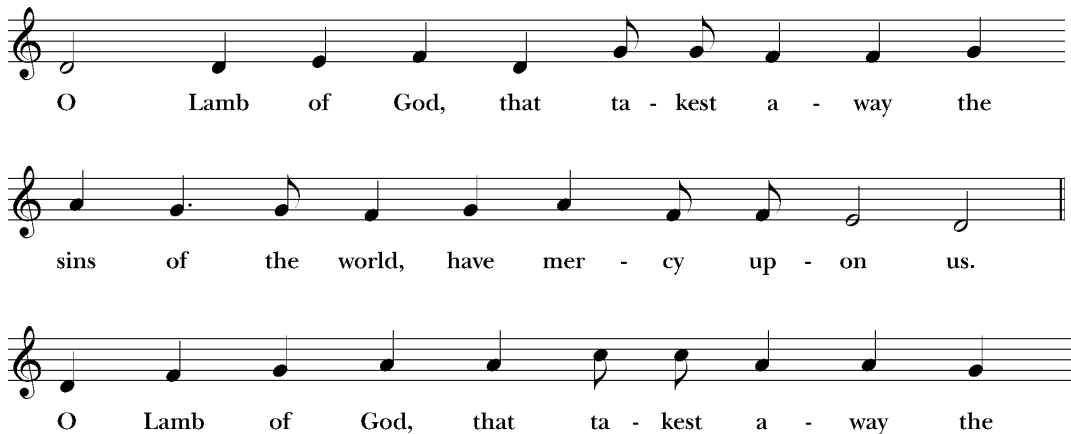
And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread



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.

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

*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**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

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

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

## **BLESSING**

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

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.*

*All stand.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices* Ebeling / Cooman

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