

# The Nativity of Our Lord

24 December 2025 – 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm

# St. John's Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

## **Organ Voluntary**

Variations on Adeste Fidelis, Marcel Dupré

#### **Choir Introit**

Hymn 102 - Once in Royal David's City

## **Processional Hymn**

Hymn 83 - O Come, All Ye Faithful



Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

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.** 

# Angels We Have Heard on High



## The Collect of the Day

One The Lord be with you.

Many And also with you.

One Let us pray.

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

## First Reading: 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 The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 96 Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 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."
- 11 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.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \* when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

## Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

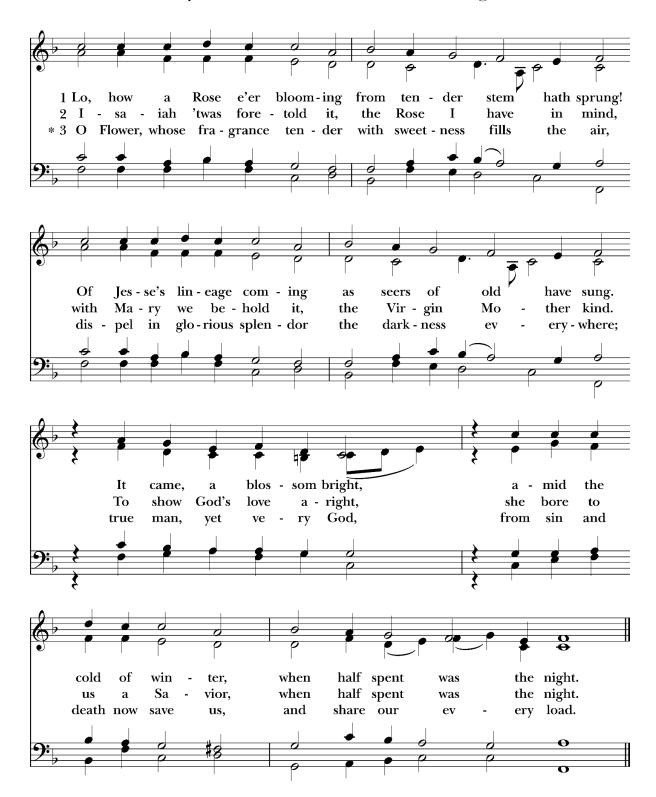
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus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

All Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn

Hymn 81 v 1-2 - Lo, How a Rose e'er blooming



## The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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

Many 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.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

Many Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Sequence Hymn

Hymn 81 v 3 - Lo, How a Rose e'er blooming See printed music before the Gospel reading

## Nativity Skit (4:00 pm service)

## The Homily

The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

## The Nicene Creed (said by all, in unison)

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.

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

Gracious and generous God, for the wonderful gift foretold by prophets and born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ our redeemer, we give you thanks and praise!

For unto us a Savior has been born, who is Christ the Lord.

We beseech you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and all who name the Name of Jesus; that as Christ's Spirit indwells our spirits, we may perform deeds of mercy in his likeness:

For the Promised One has dwelt among us.

We intercede for the Church in all the world that we may serve the work given into our hands, and prosper the Gospel mission:

For the Church's witness to God's Emmanuel.

As Joseph and Mary made a home for their child, we pray for the parents and families of our parish, that the young people entrusted to our care may be nurtured with tender love and discipline; and grant to our children a holy faith, and Christmas joy and wonder:

For you guided Joseph by dream and Mary by vision.

We ask the solace of the Wonderful Counselor for all who are sick or downcast, and for those in any trouble or distress, especially those for whom we now pray (the people may offer their petitions). Sustain, uphold, and restore them, O God:

For the star's bright light dispelled the shepherd's fear.

May the humble circumstances of the holy family stir us to work for the poor, the oppressed, the displaced and unsheltered:

For gifts were brought from afar, and offered at a rude manger.

As you pierced the darkness of that first Christmas night, and began a great work in an unlikely place, through unexpected people, and within a small child, so pierce the night of our darkness, and perform new deeds in our lives:

Behold your servants, O God, and be it done to us according to your will.

Let us pray to the Lord:

O God of stars and journeys and spoken Word made flesh, be born again within us, that we may witness to Christ, strive for his truth, and walk in his love; and all for your Name's sake.

The congregation is invited to offer prayers of thanksgiving, lament, and intercession, aloud or silently.

Silence is kept for open intercessions

## **Concluding Collect**

## The Peace

One The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

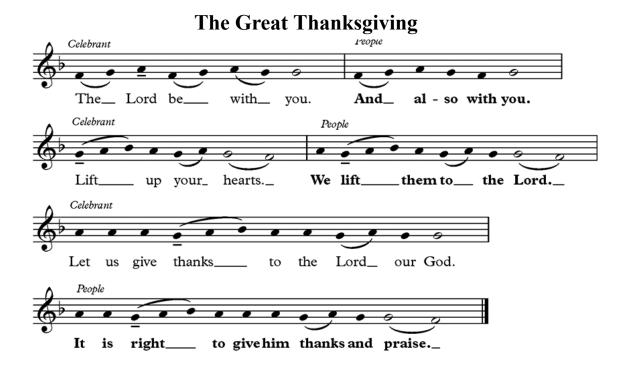
## **Offertory Anthem**

"O magnum mysterium" O great mystery - Craig Kingsbury
English translation of O magnum mysterium:
O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

## **Presentation Hymn**

Hymn 115 - What child is this, who, laid to rest

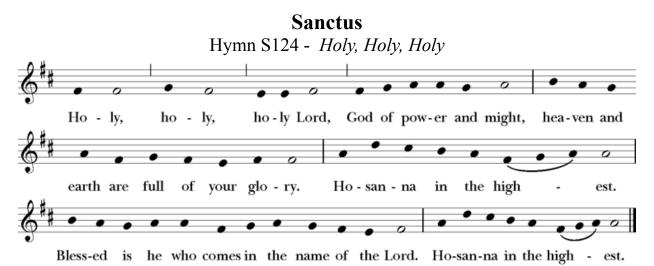




It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:



The people stand or kneel for the Prayer of Consecration.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father, We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary the Mother of God, John the Beloved Disciple and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **Amen.** 

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

People and Celebrant

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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All who hunger gather gladly



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#### **Invitation to Communion**

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 who feel called to receive communion are welcomed at the Lord's Table. Those who do not wish to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ may cross their arms to receive a blessing. If you are not yet baptized and feel called to join the body of Christ, please see the Priest after the service.

### Communion

# Communion Hymns Hymn 87 - Hark! the herald angels sing



Hymn 89 - It came upon the midnight clear



Hymn 93 - Angels, from the realms of glory

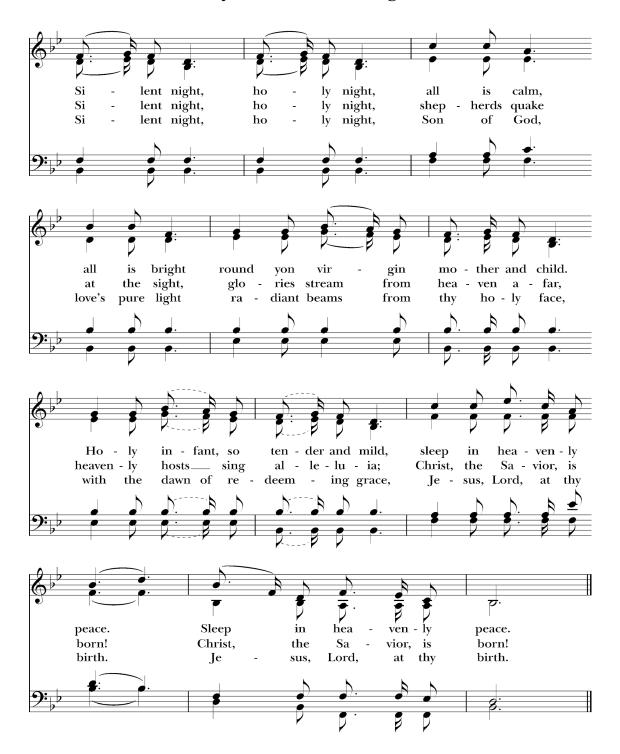


Hymn 99 - Go tell it on the mountain



Candles are lit. During the singing of the hymn that follows, the candles that have been distributed are lighted from the Choir's candles and then shared. Please lean the unlit candle to the lighted one to prevent wax spilling.

Hymn 111 - Silent Night



## Post Communion 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.

## The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

Closing Hymn 100 - Joy to the World!



## The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

#### **Christmas Flowers and Greens**

Given to the Greater Glory of God as Thank Offerings and in Thanksgiving for, or in Loving Memory, or in Honor of:

Bruce Barkley Clare Barkley

Gayle Boone

Dorothy & Bill Collins Kay & Richard Deshaies

Carroll H. Faulkner

Bill Ford Jack Ford

Orlando Frati, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Edson L. George, Sr.

Edson L. George, Jr.

Miller George

Mr. & Mrs. Dana R. Grindle Everett & Carolyn Hadley

Betty Hamilton

Bill & Marisol Hamilton Charlotte Harrington

Lou Holland

Joseph & Virginia Howell

John M. Ingalls

Russ & Eileen Irwin

Fred Jones

Laurel A. Libby James Lufkin

Lowell & Evelyn Lufkin Maria & Edward Lyden Lillian Keim

The Keim Family
The Matulis Family

Daryl Miller Duane Miller Marina Nixon

The Nixon Family

Gary Norton Gerald Palmer Jim Patterson Rita Roberts

Michael J. Robinson

The Rev. Lev Sherman, Jr.

Meghan Simonds Barbara C. Smith Leon Souweine, Sr. Lillian Souweine Lois & Bill Soule Ruth Souweine Mary-Ann Taylor

Maurice & Alvina Taylor

Lois G. Trask

Carlton J. & Mar Wiggins

Joel Wilcox

The Rev. John Wingert

# Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church

Since 1835, St. John's has been a place of worship and inspiration to people of many and varied backgrounds. We are glad you're here this evening continuing the tradition!

If you are new or visiting with us tonight, we extend our welcome and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please sign a Newcomer card in the pew and or introduce yourself to the clergy and greeters.

The Children's Corner at the back of the church has "busy bags" containing quiet activities to occupy your child. Please help yourself to a bag and be sure to return it to the basket after the service.

Large Print and Braille editions of the Book of Common Prayer as well as assisted-listening devices are available at the back of the church for your use during the service. Please return them at the conclusion of the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located down the stairs on either side of the Undercroft (basement). The elevator is currently out of order; there is an accessible bathroom in the Choir Vesting Room, located between the elevator and the staircase. When you enter the Vesting Room, go to the right and the bathroom will be on the left.

For those allergic to wheat, gluten-free (rice) wafers are available for Communion. If you would like to have these special wafers, please indicate this by crossing your hands upside down.

Wine will be offered in the Common Cup, and you may choose to drink from it or not. If you choose not to drink, please be assured that Communion "in one kind" (bread only) still conveys all the spiritual benefits of both kinds! When we gather at the Communion Rail, you may ask an usher for Communion to be brought to your seat, and they will let the priest know. Crossing your arms indicates that you prefer receiving a blessing instead of the elements.

**Sunday Eucharist** service is celebrated at 10:00 am in person and live streamed on YouTube.

**Morning Prayer** is said on Facebook and Zoom Monday-Friday, and in person in the Bethlehem Chapel Tuesday-Friday at 9:00am.

Evening Prayer is said on Zoom at 5:30pm Monday-Friday.

Wednesday Evening Eucharist is held in person at 5:30pm.

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Psalm 96 #220 streaming permission granted by the composer.

The Ministers: All the members of this church because we believe in the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:5).

#### **Vestry and Officers**

Robert Ford, Senior Warden, fordrs58@yahoo.com Jeff Perry, Junior Warden, 944-6413 Delores Landry, Treasurer, deloreslandry175@gmail.com

#### **Vestry Members**

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#### Jacqueline Camm

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#### Leon Souweine

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#### Mary Wright

wrightme@roadrunner.com

The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown, Bishop of Maine

The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, Rector

Mr. Colin Graebert, Choir Director

Mr. Joshua Singer, Organist

Ms. Vanessa Young, Office Manager

Ms. Mary-Frances Beesorchard, Director of Christian Education

Ms. Tricia Drake, Sexton

Mr. Dakota Miller, Bookkeeper

Ms. Susanna Pathak, Parish Librarian

Ms. Patricia Sprague, Director of Adult Formation

Ms. Lorna Whedon, Office Assistant