

Christ Episcopal Church
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Evening of Our Lord's Nativity
December 24, 2019

Prelude

THE HYMNS

O Come, All Ye Faithful	Hymnal 83
Hark! The herald angels sing	Hymnal 87
It came upon a midnight clear	Hymnal 89
God rest you merry gentlemen	Hymnal 105
Good Christian friends, rejoice	Hymnal 107
The first Nowell	Hymnal 109
What child is this	Hymnal 115
Joy to the world!	Hymnal 100

The Word of God

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit BCP 355
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.

Officiant:

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 Hymnal 96 v1

The Collect of the Day BCP 212
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.*

A reading from Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.
Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

Please respond after each lesson with "Thanks be to God"

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of
the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
*
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

A reading from Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior

appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Gradual "O little town of Bethlehem" Hymnal 79 v1

The Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
The people respond: *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.

Officiant: The Gospel of our Lord

The people respond: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Words of Faith

The Rev. Dan Buchin

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

Preface to Prayers

The Prayers of the People

The following form of Prayers of the People is used at New Song for Christmas:

Leader

God of the One who has come, your Star rises in our hearts as we make our own journey to greet you. Bring us to the humility of the stable as we join our voices in prayer.

For the church. For your people gathered here in joy, and for those gathered throughout the world. Remind us of what it means to be faithful, even as Mary offered her womb, Joseph, the strength of his protection, and the shepherds their awe and

wonder. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For the world. For our nation and for all nations. Keep us mindful that the hopes and fears of all time, of all hearts, and of all spirits are met in You, and that you are Emmanuel, God with us.

(Silence)

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For this community. Let the light of your star illumine the shadows that hide the needs of those around us. Bring us your vision of justice and the courage to live it; the willingness to learn the names of those in need, and the compassion to respond as we discover you in each other. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For ourselves. Open us ever more deeply to your Presence. Open our eyes to see by the stable lamp that we are created in your own image. Open our ears to hear the stars that bend their voices, and blend our voices with the stones that cry in praise of you. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For our children and for children everywhere. That even as we greet the Holy Child, we may know the holy and joyous gift of their presence in our lives, and that we may come to know the Truth of your Love together. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For those who suffer. Show them, through us, the brightness of your Star, the promise of your presence, and the Hope of your healing, that they may know, in special ways, grace upon grace. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
We gather to greet you in love.

For those who have died. We rejoice that because of your birth, they now live in perfect joy, their spirit voices praising your name and reminding us that the absence we know is, by your grace, made full and holy. *(Silence)*

God of hope and promise,
With all your saints, we praise you.

The Collect at the Prayers

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

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 Passing of the Peace BCP 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the People:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Hymnal 102

Tonight's offering will be donated to the Daily Bread, to help with the mission to the homeless. Please be generous.

Offertory Hymn Hymnal 380 v3

The Bread and the Wine

The Great Thanksgiving-Eucharistic Prayer D BCP 372

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: 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 Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus Hymnal S-129

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising

from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people,

the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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 BCP 364
Officiant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation
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 baptized persons are welcome at the altar. If you'd rather
receive a blessing, come to the altar and cross your arms.)*

Communion Hymn "Love came down at Christmas" Hymnal 84

Post-Communion Prayer BCP 365
After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn "Silent Night" Hymnal 111
*(Please gather together in the aisles and form a circle as we
sing this song. The carol is printed below.)*

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Dismissal BCP 366

Enjoy the celebration of Christ's birth with your families and
friends.

We will worship again on Sunday, December 29, at 9:30 a.m.
with Morning Prayer Rite II. Please join us!

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight!

We welcome you to Christ Church and invite you to join us for refreshments in the parish hall immediately following the service.

THE VESTRY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Senior Warden	Todd Johnson
Treasurer	Joyce Holden
Clerk	Sam Abraham
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See us on Facebook!



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019

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