



CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebration of the Nativity

December 24, 2020

Prelude *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* – Miller

Vom Himmel hoch (From Heaven Above) - Pachelbel

Opening Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1-3, 6)

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels: **Refrain**

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father; **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **Refrain**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Station at the Crèche

Celebrant Let us pray
O God our Creator, to restore our fallen race you spoke the effectual word, and the Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that as you humbled yourself to be clothed with our humanity, so we may be found worthy, in Christ, to be clothed with divinity. **Amen.**

A Reading *Luke 2:1-7*

Celebrant O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, surpassing human understanding
People **Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, O King of all the ages.**
Celebrant Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name?
Because your just and holy works have been revealed.
People **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
Celebrant Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people:
for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Hymn *What Child Is This?*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. **Refrain**

Song of Praise (*Gloria*)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

- 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.

Epistle *Titus 2:11-14*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
 And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo.
 Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
 What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. **Refrain**

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel *Luke 2:1-20*

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector

The Nicene Creed

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.

The Prayers of the People

Response to each petition is: "Be born in us this day".

Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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.

The Second Gospel *John 1:1-14*

Christmas Blessing

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

May Almighty God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you 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 the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Go through this holy Christmas season rejoicing,
for our Savior Christ is born. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Hymn *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.