

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity**  
**The Reverend Canon Mark A. Scheneman, presiding**

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**The People Gather** (please keep a rule of silence)

**Preludes**

**Processional Hymn:** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* **Hymn 83, st. 1-4**

**Introit:** *“Of the Father’s love begotten”* **Hymn 82, st. 1-2**

**Salutation and Response** **p. 355 BCP**

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

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Gloria:** *“Angels we have heard on high”* **Hymn 96, st. 1-2**

**The Collect for Christmas**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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 Word of God** (be seated for the readings)

**The First Lesson**

**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 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

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 96** (said responsively)

- Sing to the Lord a new song; \* **sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**
- Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \* **proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- Declare his glory among the nations \* **and his wonders among all peoples.**

- For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; **\* he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 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."**
- 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.**

### The Epistle

**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

**People: Thanks be to God**

### Gradual Hymn:

*"Angels from the realm of Glory"*

**Hymn 93**

### The Holy Gospel (remain standing)

**Luke 2:1-14**

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

**People: 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!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Mark A. Scheneman

### The Nicene Creed (unison, standing)

**p. 358 BCP**

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**

People: (respond after each petition): **Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Parish Intercessions** (Celebrant)

#### **The Prayer of St. Francis** (in unison)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

#### **Confession** (kneeling in unison)

**p. 360 BCP**

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.

#### **Absolution** (Celebrant)

**p. 360 BCP**

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 Exchange of the Peace** (standing)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.** (Greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

#### **Announcements** (be seated)

**Offertory Hymn:** *"O little town of Bethlehem"*

**Hymn 79, st 1-4**

#### **Reception of Gifts** (in unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

## **Holy Communion**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**p. 367 BCP**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**Sanctus & Benedictus****S-130**

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.

**Prayer of Consecration B** (kneeling, concluding with **AMEN**)**p. 368 BCP****Memorial Acclamation** (in unison)**p. 368 BCP**

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory

**Prayer of Consecration B** (continuing on page 369 and concluding with **Amen.**)**The Lord's Prayer** (traditional words)**p. 364 BCP****The Breaking of the Bread**

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

**Angus Dei****S- 164**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Redeemer, Redeemer of the world, give us peace. Give us your peace.

**The Administration of Holy Communion**

*THE HOLY TABLE around which we gather is the Lord's, not our own. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you with my own faith community, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you live in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

**Kneeling Hymn:***"Silent Night"***Hymn 111****Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)**p. 366 BCP**

Almighty and ever living 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.

**The Blessing** (Celebrant)

**Recessional Hymn:**       *"Hark! The herald angels sing"*

**Hymn 87**

**The Dismissal**

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*A warm welcome to all this Christmas Eve! If you are visiting us, we are honored that you have joined us and wish you a very Merry Christmas. Our parish tradition is to light hand candles after receiving Communion, and then to kneel, singing Silent Night.*

**Donations for Christmas flowers and greens have generously been given by the following parishioners:**

- The poinsettias are given by Tom Peck in loving memory of Frances Peck
- The flowers and greens in the church are given:
  - In memory of Jim and Lois Johnston, Percy and Sara Weller, and Jim Hartranft given by the Johnston family
  - In memory of Bob Dailey, Elmer and Elizabeth Shepherd, Harold and Ella Dailey given by Chris Shepherd
  - In memory of Malcolm H. McKay given by Courtney Stevens
  - In memory of Bob and Geoff Dailey and Vivien Johnson given by Marge Dailey
  - In memory of Glen VanDyke given by Florence VanDyke and family
  - In memory of Bob Brown given by Luci Brown
  - In memory of Richard and Joanne Orbin, John and Mary Gould, Kenneth Pentola given by Jaime Gould
  - In memory of Charles, Vera and Lynn Sagner given by the Sagner clan
  - In thanksgiving by Marian Gable