



**THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B**



**SAINT NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

7:10pm- Musical Prelude

7:30pm- Festival Eucharist

We Gather for Worship

Musical Prelude

A selection of carols, followed by choral and instrumental music.

The people may be seated quietly as they arrive and are invited to take part in the singing of the carols

Hymn: H-79 | O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see the lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin.
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Hymn: H- 89 | It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the son
Which now the angels sing.

Hymn: H-101 | Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Hymn: H-110 | The snow lay on the ground

The snow lay on the ground,
The stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born
On Christmas night
Refrain: Venite adoremus Dominum

And thus that manger poor,
Became a throne:
For he whom Mary bore
Was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join
The heavenly host,
To praise the Father, Son,
And Holy Ghost.
Refrain

Hymn: H-102 | Once in royal David's city

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was the mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Hymn: H-112 | In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him-
Give my heart.

Instrumental Solo: *See Insert*

Anthem: *See Insert*

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn: H-83 | O come, all ye faithful

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

O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

God from God
Light from Light eternal
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Only-begotten
Son of God 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

Welcome & Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Jesus is Born.

People: God is with us. Alleluia! Alleluia!!

The Collect/Prayer for Purity

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.

Song of Praise: H-96 | 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
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray together

The Collect/Prayer for Christmas Eve

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.

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

First Lesson

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

[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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 – Prayed responsively by whole verse

- 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 Lesson

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus [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.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Hymn: H-115| 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 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 Christian, 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

The Gospel

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. [Luke 2:1-20]

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!"

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of the People Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you

People: **And also with you.**

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Anthem: *See insert*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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,

All: 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 Nicholas 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 forever.

People: AMEN.

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

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.

FRACTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept

Fraction Anthem: H-342 | King of kings, yet born of Mary

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

The Priest invites the people to Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

Approach the altar by the center aisle. Gather in a semicircle around the altar. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. If you want to sip from the Common Cup, eat the bread. If you want to dip in the Intinction Cup, hold the bread out in front of you. If you want only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you desire a gluten free wafer hold up 2 fingers. Wait until the Celebrant says, "Go in peace."

Communion Anthem: *See insert*

Communion Hymn: H-109 | The first Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherd s in fields as they lay
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winters night that was so deep

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell Nowell, born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Refrain

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay
Refrain

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

A Light in the Darkness

“The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.”

The Torch Bearers move up the center aisle carrying the torches. The people closest to the center aisle light their candles from the torches, and then pass the flame down their row.

Candle Lighting Hymn: H-111 | Silent 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.

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

THE CHRISTMAS 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.**

Please extinguish your candles

Closing Hymn: H-87 | Hark, the herald angels sing

Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconcile
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heaven adored Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of the Virgins womb
Veiled in flesh the God-head see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with us to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Refrain

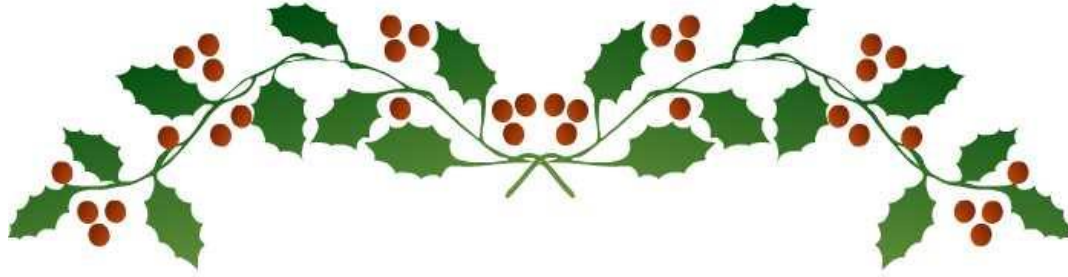
Mild he lays his glory by born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth
Born to give us second birth
Rise with healing in his wings
Light and life to all he brings
Hail the sun of Righteousness
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia! Let us go forth into the
World, bearing the Light of Christ. Alleluia,
Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude



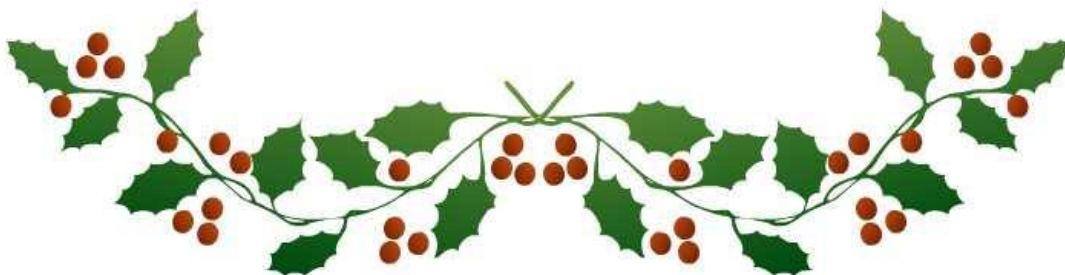
Christmas Meditation

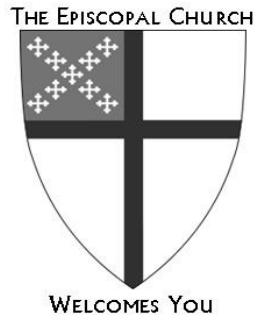
Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)





OUR STAFF

The Rev. Beth O’Callaghan | *Rector*
Carolyn Deibel | *Director of Music*

Worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

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