



The Holy Eucharist

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Thursday, December 24, 2020

8:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas, and welcome to this online liturgy from the Church of the Holy Apostles.

We hope that you will be blessed by this offering of prayer and worship in celebration of our Lord's birth, and be reminded thereby of the unity we have in Christ, for "there is one body and one Spirit . . . one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4,6)

At the point in this service for the administration of Holy Communion, you will see "An Act of Spiritual Communion." The Book of Common Prayer reminds us, in keeping with longstanding church teaching, that if extraordinary circumstances do not permit one to consume the consecrated Bread and Wine, the desire to receive them is enough for God to grant all the benefits of Communion (p. 457). When being physically present at a celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, this act of prayer and meditation provides a means by which you can associate yourself with the eucharistic action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing.

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	arr. Richard Shephard
Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth	arr. Richard Shepherd
Gesu Bambino	Pietro Yon
What Can I Give Him?	arr. Mark Schweizer
What Child Is This?	arr. Malcolm Archer
Still, Still, Still	arr. Richard Shephard
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High	arr. Amanda Bradley
O Holy Night	Adolph Adam

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional (sung by the choir)	<i>O come, all ye faithful</i> vss. 1 – 3 only	Hymn 83
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The People standing, the Celebrant says

	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People	And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.**

Gloria in excelsis

S 280

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the People

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect

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

The People sit

A Reading from 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 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.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Portland Psalter

The psalm is sung by the choir.



- 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 heaven.
- 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 to 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.

A Reading from 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Sequence Hymn (sung by the choir)

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymn 87

Still standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

(Luke 2:1-20)

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.

After the Gospel, the Deacon says

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Clay Calhoun

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.

Prayers of the People (*Form II*)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Phoebe our Bishop and Michael our Presiding Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Longstreet Minor.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.

I ask your prayers for all those in whose honor or in whose memory the Poinsettias have been given.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 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 Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Please refrain from moving about at this time.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of scripture.

Offertory anthem

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Andrew Risinger

The People's offerings of bread, wine, and money or other gifts are placed upon the Altar. When directed by the Celebrant, the People stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Celebrant faces the people and says

	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	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 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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

S 129

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

The people stand or kneel

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,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 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.**

Celebrant

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 lu - ia. Christ our Pass-ov - er is sac - ri - ficed for us. There - fore let us
 keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

An Act of Spiritual Communion (from the Episcopal Church's A Prayer Book for the Armed Forces)

Meditating upon the love of God in Christ, pray:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymns (sung by the choir)

<i>O little town of Bethlehem</i>	Hymn 78
<i>Away in a manger</i>	Hymn 101
<i>Silent night, holy night</i>	Hymn 111

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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 Priest blesses the people.

Processional Hymn

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
vss. 1, 2, 4 only

Hymn 100

The Deacon dismisses the People

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

From highest heaven to earth I come

Johann Pachelbel

Thank you to this evening's guest instrumentalists:

Andy Yu, *violin*
Lenore McIntyre, *violin*
Beth Luscombe, *viola*
Hannah Schmidt, *cello*



THIS EVENING'S SERVERS (12/24/20)

Lector/Intercessor: Mike Siegel

Cantors: Caroline Phillips-Burk, Tom Carpenter, Jack Siegel

“Gesu Bambino” and “O Holy Night” sung by Kathy Krieger

*Poinsettias are given to the glory of God on this Christmas Eve,
in honor of:*

Jenna and Jason Balestrini
Clay Calhoun, Cynthia McCarty, Holly McDaniel and Tiffany Siegel
LaVerne Day
The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott
Will and David Krieger
Connie Marshall
Jean and Earl Morris

in memory of:

J. Robert Bradshaw	Joanne Martin
Polly and Chris Christensen	Bill McCarty
Bessie Dallas	Heloise Marshall McKee
Barbara Endicott	Lewis K. McKee
J.D. Evans	Raymond O. Miller
Mickie Evans	Elizabeth and Thomas Moore
Muriel Bradshaw Gerard	Robert Moore
Betty and Wade Harrison	Virginia B. Morris
Mrs. Ann Haynes	Grace L. Newton
Dr. Greer Haynes	Elizabeth and Joe Reddoch
Dr. Wilson Haynes	Joseph William Reddoch, Jr.
Jason Kelly	Gayle and James Schafer
Ken Kropkowski	Cathy Swearingen
John Marshall	

All net proceeds received from your Poinsettia contributions go to Our Little Roses Ministry in Honduras,
an outreach of the Holy Apostles Altar/Flower Guild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 27th

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream (no in-person attendance)

No evening service

Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 25th and Monday, December 28th

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of Christmas.

Donations

For purposes of filing your federal taxes, as long as your donation is received in our offices by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday December 30, 2020, it will be included in your year-end statement. If you are an e-giver, please remember it usually takes 2-3 days for your donation to process so be sure to plan accordingly if you would like your donation to be included in 2020 giving.

Church of the Holy Apostles The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf, Bishop of West Tennessee
The Rev. Clay Calhoun, Associate Priest
The Rev. Gerri Endicott, Deacon
Mr. Tom Carpenter, Director of Adult Formation
Mrs. Cynthia McCarty, Director of Youth Ministry
Mrs. Holly McDaniel, Director of Finance and Operations
Mrs. Tiffany Siegel, Director of Membership and Communications
Ms. Flora Sims, Hospitality
Mr. Jim Walsmith, Organist-Choirmaster

2020 Vestry and Officers

Diana Kelly, Senior Warden;
Jim Shaheen, Junior Warden; Julie Pierami, Clerk;
Clark Madison, Treasurer
Margaret Yancey, Assistant Treasurer
Donna Abney, Bonnie Barnes, Bob Bennett, Jeff Dlabach,
Carey Mayfield, Guy See, Michael Shelton
Mike Marshall, Parish Chancellor, *ex-officio*;
Amelia Robert, Youth Representative, *ex-officio*

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OUR MISSION:

*To provide a welcoming community in which all can, with open hearts and open minds,
receive God's grace through worship, fellowship, learning and outreach to others.*