

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension
and
Holy Trinity**



The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

December 24, 2022

Father Steve Karcher – Rector & Celebrant

4:00 PM - Family Service (No Choir)

9:45 PM – Music and Preludes

10:00 PM - Service of Holy Communion, Rite II

Welcome to Our Christmas worship!

Thank you for choosing our historic Church to be
a part of your Christmas celebration.
We are glad that you are here!

Music and Preludes

Away in a Mangerarranged by John Behnke
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence..... arranged by Cathy Mokleburst
Advent Hope..... Derek K. Hakes

The Service of the Word

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymnal 83, verses 1,2,4

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Behold I bring you good news of great joy, which will come to all people. For to you is
born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Blessed be God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Gloria

Sung by all.

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymnal 96

Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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 for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from Isaiah.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 "Cantate Domino"

(At the 4pm service the antiphon will be read by congregation. At the 10pm service, the Psalm will be chanted by the Choir leader, and the antiphon 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.....[ANT.]
- 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.....[ANT.]
- 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.".....[ANT.]
- 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, 5when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.....[ANT.]

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Reader A Reading from Titus.

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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Hymnal 79

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel according to 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!"

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**

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Father Steve Karcher, Rector

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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

Leader As we join the angels and celebrate with joy the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Incarnate One, let us offer our prayers to the Lord who gives new birth to sons and daughters in every place by the timeless Son of God born of the Virgin Mary.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Kym our Bishop, the Clergy, Vestry and Lay Ministers of this parish, all leaders who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader For all who put their trust in Jesus, the Incarnate One; for all who seek to be loved and known by God.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader For the leaders of the nations and all in authority; for wisdom, justice and peace to guide them.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, for the dying and the dead; for the courage to see and respond in love.

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader For deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need; for the courage to take only what we need that others may have what they need

People **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Leader Remembering all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ who unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity; through our Savior, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Please kneel as you are able.

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

Celebrant 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 Absolution

The Celebrant 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

Please stand as you are able. The Celebrant says

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Anthem

"Love Came Over at Christmas"

by Rosetti-Gawthrop

Doxology

"What Child is This?" (verse 3)

Hymnal 115

(Spoken at 4 pm, Sung by all at 10pm)

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

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion *Eucharistic Prayer D*

BCP 372

Please stand as you are able.

The Celebrant 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.**

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 (say)

Sanctus

Hymnal S130

(Spoken at 4 pm, Sung by all at 10pm)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

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.

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. Remember 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.**

Celebrant says

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Celebrant and People

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant 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 to receive communion or a blessing. We are practicing intinction; please lightly dip your wafer in the wine to consume the host together (gluten free wafers available). To receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar and place your hands across your chest.

Communion Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Hymnal 112

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

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 Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people and says

May the love of God enfold you; May the Strength of Christ surround you; May the peace of God fill you; and may the light of the Holy Spirit always shine upon you; and may the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those you love forever. **Amen.**

The lights will be dimmed for Silent Night.
For safety reasons and to prevent unwanted wax drippings
ONLY the choir will have candles.
Candles will be lit by the acolyte as choir recesses to the back of the Nave.
After silent night the candles will be blown out.
The lights will come back up and the closing hymn will be sung.

Please stand as you are able.

Recessional Hymn

"Silent Night"

Hymnal 111

Celebrant and People

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.

Lights up!

Closing Hymn

"Joy to the World"

Hymnal 100

A Very Special Thanks to Our Music Program

Pianist/Organist: Elizabeth Zawadowski

Choir Director: Roger Ashcraft

Ascension Choir

Sopranos: Sherrie Howey, Elaine Sartoris, Myracle Wade

Altos: Betsy Barto, Gunilla Rushing, Sharon Wade

Tenors: Mike Apker, Douglas Dypold, Ann Ladd

Bass: Mel Barto, Ken Butcher, Jim Feickert, John Tracey

Ascension Bell Choir

Mike Apker, Jim Feickert, Barb Kyzer

Jenny Jesson, Elaine Sartoris, John Sartoris, Ken White