



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023  
EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #83* – O come, all ye faithful (v. 1-3)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

## The Word of God

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

*People* ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant continues*

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.***

*All say together a song of praise  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.*

*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 people may be seated for the readings]**

**A Reading from the Prophet 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.

*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.

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to 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*

**Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #96 – Angels we have heard on high***

1 An - gels we have heard on high,    sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this    ju - bi - lee?    Why these songs of    hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see    him whose birth the    an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a    man - ger laid    whom the    an - gels    praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains    in re - ply    ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness    did you see?    What glad tid - ings    did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee    Christ, the Lord, the    new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,    while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.    Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a    in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

## **[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]**

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1 - 14)  
*People*            ***Praise 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!"

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*            ***Praise be to thee, O Christ***

## **Sermon**

### **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 – Form III [The people may be seated]**

*Deacon or other leader*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*Silence*

*The Deacon or Celebrant then concludes with the following prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**      *And also with you.*

## **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm*

*96:8, Ephesians 5:2*



## Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #89* – It came upon the midnight clear (v. 1 – 3)

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the

heaven's all - gra - cious King.” The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing,  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

## Anthem

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer B [Please stand, as you are able]

*Celebrant* 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 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

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. \_\_\_\_\_

*Then the Celebrant continues* [People may 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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

*Officiant 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.***

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver 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.

*Celebrant then says*

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*** are welcome at the Lord's Table at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed. Gluten-free wafers are available, please inform the greeter/usher as soon as possible.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]**

*Almighty and everliving 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.*

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Announcements**

## Candlelight Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #111* – Silent Night, Holy Night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 hea - ven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Silte Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

# Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #100 – Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

*Celebrant*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People*

*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*



*"Census at Bethlehem" by Pieter Bruegel, 1566*

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