

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2021

The Word of God

The Prelude: Star Carol
Parish Choir

John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary.

REFRAIN: See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!
Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer:
Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! REFRAIN

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.
REFRAIN

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! REFRAIN

Hymn: 102 Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

The Processional Hymn: 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**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, O come, let us adore him,
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 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**

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

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

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born.

People: **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.**

The Gloria: 96 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN**

The Collect: The Nativity of Our Lord

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 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 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.

The Sequence Hymn: 115 What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

Stanza 1 is sung before the Gospel, stanza 3 is sung after.

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

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 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.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Hymn: 115, *Stanza 3* 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**

**REFRAIN: 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 Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

Celebrant and People

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

- Priest: In this holy night, O Lord, Christians the world over celebrate your Son's birth: open our hearts that he may be born in us anew. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Celebrant: In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn: protect those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Priest: In this holy night shepherds in the field heard glad tidings of great joy: renew our hope, kindle our joy, and send us out to share the good news with others. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Celebrant: In this holy night the angels sang of peace on earth: strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Priest: In this holy night heaven came down to earth, and earth was raised up to heaven: bring all who have died in the hope of heaven to your eternal joy. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- Celebrant: In this holy night the Word became flesh and lived among us: accept the worship we offer in the company of Mary, Joseph, the apostles, prophets, saints, and martyrs of every age, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

- Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;
 born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.

REFRAIN: Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay,
 for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
 over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. REFRAIN

Wise men from distant land, Shepherds from starry hills
 worship the babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. REFRAIN

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
 innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know. REFRAIN

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. To utilize our text-to-give option, simply text "ALBANS" to 73256.

The Presentation of Gifts

The Offertory Response: In the Bleak Mid-Winter, *Stanza 4*

CRANHAM

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 I can I give him, give my heart.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The Sursum Corda: S 120

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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 continues.

The Sanctus: S 125 Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

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.

The congregation is invited to stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant

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;**

Celebrant

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Fraction: S 154 Christ Our Passover

David Hurd

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.

The Ministration of Communion

BCP p. 365

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

This prayer is meant to be prayed by those who are unable to attend in-person worship for any reason.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, (and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshipping there) I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Communion Hymn: 89 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

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.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and 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 song which now the angels sing.

The Communion Hymn: 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

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.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

The Communion Hymn: 111 Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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.

*The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant
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 Christmas Blessing

Adapted from *The Work of Christmas* by Howard W. Thurman

Celebrant

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. May the work of Christmas begin in you tonight; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn: 100 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude: For unto Us/ Joy to the World

G. F. Handel, arr. Keith Christopher

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