

Order of Service for
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE NATIVITY**



Advent Candel, Laruen Plummer. 2018, Nashville, TN.

December 8, 2024

10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

This service bulletin contains all that you need for our service. We invite you to participate fully in our worship. If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Episcopal Church, simply allow the congregation to carry you in worship. At times you will be invited to stand but this is only an invitation and is not required.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude

Processional: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal 1982, #67

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Celebrant
People

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

BCP 355

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

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.**



Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Peace to all your
Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son, Lamb of God, the
Je - sus, you are seat - ed there At God's right hand, re -
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, Lord of Love, till



peo - ple given, Al - might - y God, your grace a - bound - ing,
Bles - sed One; Tak - ing a - way our sin and sad - ness,
ceive our prayer; Peace is your king - dom, now and ev - er,
a - ges run; Glo - ry to God, e - ter - nal mer - it,



We give you glo - ry, our praise re - sound - ing; We wor - ship you, and
Turn ing our sor - row in - to glad - ness; We wor - ship you, and
Li - on and lamb lay down to - geth - er; We wor - ship you, and
Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; We wor - ship you, and



sing to - day, Christ, our Hope, is on the way.
sing to - day, Christ, our Joy, is on the way.
sing to - day, Christ, our Peace, is on the way.
sing to - day, Christ, our Love, is on the way.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the Book of Baruch:

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be
made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant
People

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
 Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Celebrant
People

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

Sermon

Silence

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Let us stand and confirm our faith in the words of 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.**

The Prayers of the People Form IV

BCP 388

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, especially those who are on our prayer list; 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.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

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

Announcements

Offertory Anthem: “Prepare The Way, O Zion”

arr./adapt. Carol McClure

Doxology: Doxology for Advent or Christmas

ad. Dean McIntyre

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye
 heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
 No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Celebrant
People

The Lord be with you.
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.

The Celebrant bids a proper preface before continuing.

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:

Sanctus: Sanctus

ad. Donna DiBella

Ho - ly, ho - ly, God al - migh - ty, Heav'n and earth your prai - ses sing!

Shout Ho-san-nas to the Sav - iour, Bles-sing, hon - or to - the King.
 In the name - of the Lord, the bear - er of light tri-umphs o'er the dark of night
 ev - er more and ev - er more.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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,

**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 Anthem: Fraction Anthem

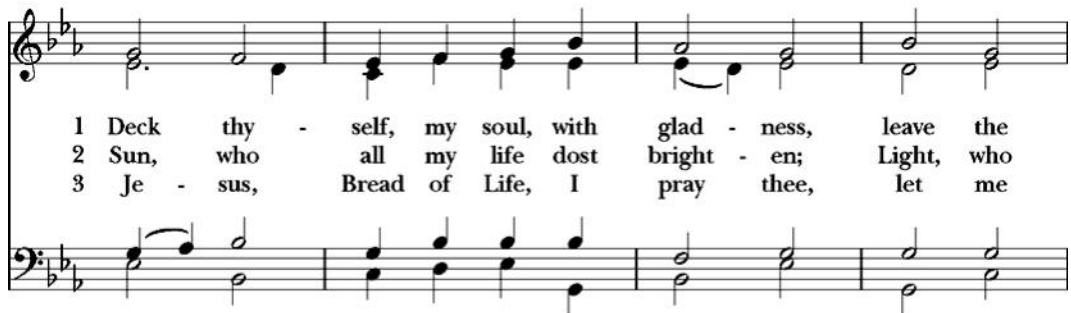
ad. Donna DiBella



Christ our pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us. There-fore let us keep the feast.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Ushers are available to help.

Communion Hymn: Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness Hymnal 1982, #339



1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
 dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
 glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth;
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

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.**

The Celebrant gives a final blessing.

Recessional: Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Hymnal 1982, #59

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- spect- ed, comes with par- don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo- ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a- way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all to be for- given;
 4 may he with his mer- cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

Dismissal

*Celebrant
People*

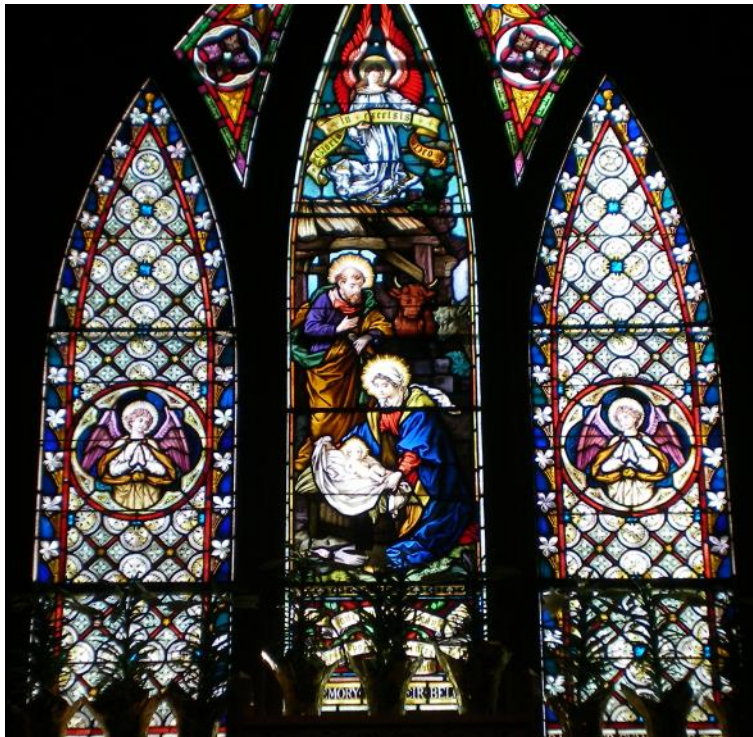
Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us at Church of the Nativity this morning.

Our Open Table Communion is being served at the Altar, and is brought to those with limited mobility in the pews. We are using the Common Cup. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

- 1) In coming to the altar rail the ushers will indicate how many to go to the altar at a time.
- 2) At the altar rail you may stand or kneel as you prefer. To receive a gluten free wafer, place one hand palm down over the other.
- 3) When receiving from the Common Cup, please help to guide the Cup by gently holding the base of the Cup.
- 4) Those not wishing to receive the wine may cross their arms over the chest and respond to the words, the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation, with “Amen”.
- 5) We are no longer using the practice of intinction (dipping the bread into the wine).



The Church of the Nativity: feeding body, mind, and soul

Growing in our discipleship to Jesus Christ through worship, study and service

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