

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



Woodchopper, 1902. Hassam, Childe, 1859-1935. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX.

December 15, 2024

10:30 A.M.

Third 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: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Hymnal 1982, #68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

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.**

Gloria: Gloria (from The St. James Advent Service)

Richard Shephard



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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid. 4

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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 4:4-7

A reading from the letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 5-6)

Hymnal 1982, #56

The musical score is written on four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with two versions of the text provided for each line of music. The first version is marked with a '5' and the second with a '6'. The lyrics are: '5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open / 6 O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us / 5 wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on / 6 by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of / 5 high, and close the path to misery. Re-joice! Re-joice! / 6 night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice! / Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!' The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

Celebrant
People

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

BCP 360

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: “All Earth is Waiting” (Toda la tierra) Taulé, trans. Marshall

Doxology: Doxology for Advent or Christmas ad. Dean McIntyre

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all
creatures here below. Praise God above, ye
heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el,
born is the King of Israel.

Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **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.

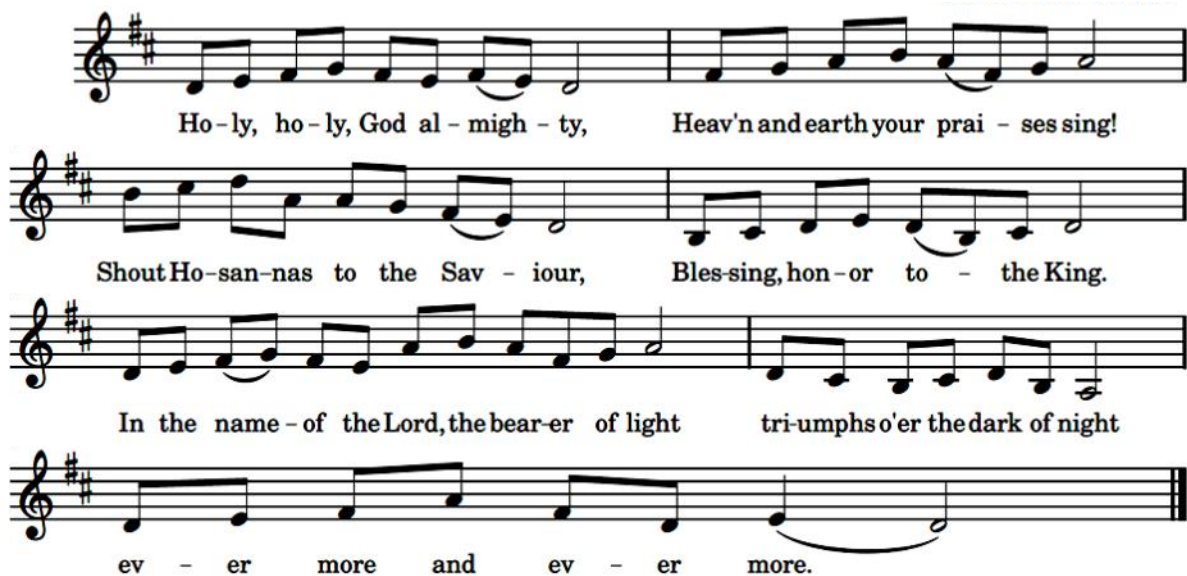
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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.

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with -
2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy
guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

**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.**

Recessional: There's A Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Hymnal 1982, #75

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O _____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God _____ en - du - reth, the _____

call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst _____ of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The _____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they _____ per - ish, like
feed his _____ flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay; the power and pomp of
lamb he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our _____ God _____ may go!
na - tions shall _____ pass like a dream _____ a - way;
lead them, and _____ bring them _____ safe to his fold.

Dismissal

Celebrant

People

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

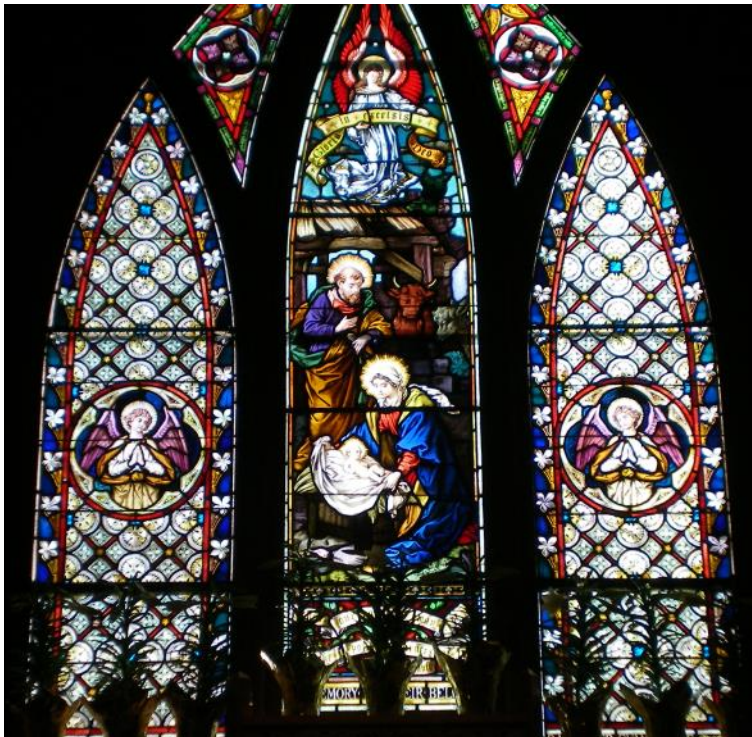
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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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