# THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BALDWINSVILLE, NY

7:00 PM

DECEMBER 24, 2020



Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

#### THE WORD OF GOD

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Angels, we have heard on high



96

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 LESSONS

FIRST READING 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 This double chant is divided into "quarters", each of which has a measure of music. The underlined word indicates when to change to the second note of each measure. † Verse 13 is sung using the second set measures.



- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song,\* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his <u>Name</u>;\* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to <u>day</u>.
- 3 Declare his glory among the <u>nations</u>\* and his wonders among all <u>peoples</u>.
- For great is the LORD and greatly to be <u>praised</u>;\* he is more to be feared than all <u>gods</u>.
- As for all the gods of the nations, they are but <u>idols</u>;\* but it is the LORD who made the <u>heavens</u>.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his <u>presence!</u>\* Oh, the power and the splendor of his <u>sanctuary!</u>
- Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the <u>peoples</u>;\* ascribe to the LORD honor and <u>power</u>.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his <u>Name</u>;\* bring offerings and come into his <u>courts</u>.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of <u>holiness</u>;\*
  let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 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."
- Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is <u>in it;</u>\*

  let the field be joyful and all that is there<u>in</u>.
- 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 <u>righteousness</u>\* and the peoples with his <u>truth</u>.

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to 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.

Gradual Hymn Hark! The herald angels sing



87



GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### THE SERMON

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

Reader: 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,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: 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,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: 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

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: 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

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and

hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (Silence)

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: 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

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presentation of the Gifts

O Holy Night—Jonathan Howell



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Sursum Corda

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 him thanks and praise

Celebrant: 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# People and Celebrant:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### Celebrant continues:

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."

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Therefore according to his command, O Father

People: We remember his death, we proclaim is 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 is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen

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

# People and Celebrant:

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 for give 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

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

# AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liquori

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

# People & Celebrant:

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, 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. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all 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.

A moment of silence is observed

Celebrant: Come Lord Jesus,

People & Celebrant: and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

#### A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

# People and Celebrant:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with a truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.



# Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

### CHRISTMAS FI OWERE

IN MEMORY OF:

Helen MacKay Carpenter, and Paul & Phyllis Holmer.

Given by Cathy Carpenter and Jon Holmer.

Robert H. Johnson, Jr.

Given by Betty Johnson

Evelyn Mercer

Given by William Mercer

Kathy Pettit.

Given by Brad Pettit Family

Robert & Edith Rogers, and Corey Gregory

Given By Marsha Rogers and Tammi Corrente

Don Simpson

Given by Barbara Simpson

Raymond C. Tamblin, Sr., Gary W. Polmanteer, and Albert & Dorothy Hannam Jr..

Given by Kathleen A. Tamblin.

Marsha Virkler.

Given by Marv Virkler.

Linda Wiemers, Alan Sward, Matthew Clifton.

Given by Carla and Dan Wiemers.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Our children and grandchildren.

Given by Susan and Stuart Allen.

Our children and grandchildren.

Given by Carla and Dan Wiemers.

# Grace Episcopal Church <u>Clergy</u>

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