

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 24, 2020
4:30 P.M.

Pre-service carol humming

Prelude: Pastoral Symphony G.F. Handel, *Messiah*

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader:

Good news, you who are weary and heavy burdened!
Sing for great joy, you who are tired and shackled with pain!
For the Lord, our Redeemer, has come!

Light the Christ Candle.

We light the Christ candle as a sign to the world
that today, in the City of David, a Savior is born,
who is Christ the Lord.

We no longer have to fear the darkness
for our Light has come.

That light that enlightens all people
has broken into our world.

And the world will never be the same again.

Alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *O come, all ye faithful* Hymn 83

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

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

Collect for Purity (*read aloud in unison*) BCP 355

Gloria: *Angels, we have heard on high* Hymn 96

The Collect of the Day (*read aloud in unison*) BCP 212

The First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.
(silence)

Psalm 97 (*said in unison*) BCP 726

The Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

(silence)

Sequence Hymn: *It came upon the midnight clear* Hymn 89

Announcement of the Gospel: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

After the Gospel: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon: The Rev. Ernestine C. Flemister

(silence)

The Nicene Creed (Large Print page 90) BCP 358

Confession and Absolution (Large Print page 97) BCP 360

The Peace (Large Print page 98)

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem: *Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child* Trad. arr
Lloyd Larson

Doxology (said in unison) updated words:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise **God**, all creatures here below,
Praise **God** above ye heavenly host,
Praise triune God, whom we adore.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer D BCP 372

Sanctus (said in unison) BCP 373

The Lord's Prayer (traditional version) (Lg. print p. 110) BCP 364

(Baptized Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized, or do not wish to receive, you may come forward to the altar rail for a blessing. If you have difficulty standing let an usher know and Communion will be brought to you.)

Communion Hymns: *O Little town of Bethlehem* Hymn 79

Away in a manger Hymn 101

What child is this? Hymn 115

Announcements

Lights are turned down and hand-held candles lit.

Post-Communion Hymn: *Silent night* Hymn 111

Post-communion Prayer (*standing*)
Christmas Season Blessing

BCP 365

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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the world!*

Hymn 100

Dismissal

Postlude: *Joy to the World!* G.F. Handel, arr. J.W. Krug

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Karen Aber
Durfee Bedsole
Fr. Jim & Pam Boston
Dick & Robin Griffiths
Lynn Hughes
Maria Jordan
Phyllis McGill
Laurel Samson
Mary Wineteer

* ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE *

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Carol humming

5:00 p.m. Festal High Mass – Choral music and anthems abound in celebration of Christ's birth.

Note: Attendance is first come, first served. Overflow will be in Parish Hall to watch the service livestreamed.

Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day



Dear St. Luke's Family:

We have traveled through Advent and are now at the eve of Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we light the Christ Candle, our Candle lighting liturgy tells us that “

We no longer have to fear the darkness for our Light has come. That light that enlightens all people has broken into our world. And the world will never be the same again. Alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

2020 has been a year that has challenged us and our faith. Fear has threatened to overcome us, but today we remember that Jesus, our light has come, and we no longer have to fear. Even if we feel uncertain, it's okay, Jesus still lights our way through the darkness.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and hope for a Wonderful New Year. Peace and blessings to you and your loved ones.

Rev. Ernestein †



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.

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Day II

RCL

COLLECT

Traditional

O GOD, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

or

Traditional

O GOD, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Contemporary

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.*

or

Traditional

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:

Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

UPON YOUR WALLS, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Refrain

To us a child is born; to us a Son is given.

Psalm 97 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

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| 1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad. | 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne. |
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| 3 A fire goes before him * and burns up his enemies on every side. | rejoice, * because of your judgments, O LORD. |
| 4 His lightnings light up the world; * the earth sees it and is afraid. | 9 For you are the LORD most high over all the earth; * you are exalted far above all gods. |
| 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. | 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; * he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. |
| 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, * and all the peoples see his glory. | 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, * and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted. |
| 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! * Bow down before him, all you gods. | 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, * and give thanks to his holy Name. |
| 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah | |

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

WHEN THE GOODNESS and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:|1-7|, 8-20

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