

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2020
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

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

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

The Collect for Purity

Song: Joy to the World!

The Collect (The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day)

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98:1-4, 11-12

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song: *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 ***Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; ****
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 ***For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; ****
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 ***Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, ****
when he comes to judge the earth.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Before the Gospel the people respond: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

After the Gospel the people respond: ***Praise 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.

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

Intercessor: Let us pray, saying, "*We pray to you, O Lord.*"

That this day may be holy, good, and peaceful.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Elizabeth and Zechariah, may be open to surprise and wonder at your presence in our lives, even when you seem most distant.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Joseph, may journey faithfully, trusting in your guidance and care, as we care for others.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like Mary, may be bearers of Christ to a broken and needy world.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the shepherds, may seek you in places poor and lowly, praying especially for those without food or shelter; for those who are sick; and for those caught in the changes and chances of this life.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the animals, may serve Christ with warmth and companionship.

We pray to you, O Lord.

That we, like the angels, may proclaim good tidings of great joy through the hope and love of Christ.

We pray to you, O Lord.

I now invite your own prayers, silently or aloud.

The Celebrant concludes:

O Lord, hear our prayers: Give us courage to seek you, hope to proclaim you, and strengthen our hearts to do your will; through the love of Christ, our Emmanuel. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin & Absolution

The Peace (The people respond: ***And also with you.***)

Welcome

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

“Holy, holy, holy” (*Sanctus*)

The Lord’s Prayer

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 Breaking of the Bread

Song: Love Came Down at Christmas

Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing

The Dismissal (The people respond: ***Thanks be to God.***)