

Holy Eucharist, December 24th, 2020

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10–11

Hymn 123 Once in Royal David's City

The Gathering of the Community *BAS p. 185*

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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."

Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle: Christmas

(Presiding Celebrant)

On this Christmas Eve we are filled with joy at the coming of the Christ child into our midst and this brings hope for us all.

(A representative of the congregation)

Tonight we light the centre candle to welcome that light and warmth into our lives.

Unison Prayer

**God of love, Father of all,
the darkness that covered the earth
has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.
Make us a people of this light.
Make us faithful to your Word
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known
the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**Amen**

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah

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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 97

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

**Almighty God, your whole creation declares your glory. May
we perceive you in all your works and live in the light of your
righteousness, through him who is the light of the world, Jesus
Christ our Lord.**

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Titus.

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

People: Thanks be to God

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Luke 2:1-20

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 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers –December 24th, 2020

Intercessor Let us pray.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, word become flesh, commanded us to pray for one another. Let us therefore pray for God's people everywhere, according to their own specific needs, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People Eternal God, bless your holy church, that it may boldly proclaim the good tidings of salvation to all the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor Bless your servants in this congregation, that nourished by your word and holy sacraments we may minister in faithfulness to you and in love to one another. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Guide the leaders of the world, that they may put aside their own ambitions and strive for peace and justice among the nations. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Be with those who travel during this holiday season, that their reunions and celebrations may be occasions for joy and that they return safely to their homes and loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Gracious God, grant health and wholeness to the sick [*name silently or aloud...*], and give patience and understanding to those who minister to them. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As you comforted your people by sending your most precious Son, the word of life, comfort those whose lives have been shattered by the loss of a loved one, that their sorrow may be turned to joy. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As in thanksgiving we remember before you, O Lord, those saints who bore witness to the light. Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called and at the end behold your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

All these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in the darkness of

our world, Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen.

COVID Prayer

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

*Intercessor:*Most merciful God,

**All 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 neighbours 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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The peace

119 Silent Night

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Eucharistic Prayer 2

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Celebrant The Lord be withyou.

People **And also withyou.**

Celebrant Lift up yourhearts.

People **We lift them to theLord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord ourGod.

People **It is right to give our thanks andpraise.**

Celebrant We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,

through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.
He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.
He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.
By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **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 Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks, saying,

“Take, and eat:
this is my body which is broken for you.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying,

“This is my blood which is shed for you.
When you do this, you do it in memory of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one
all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you
and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son,
with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,

we are bold to pray,
**All 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

Celebrant We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Blessing

Officiant 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.*

Closing: The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you
The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up the light
Of His countenance upon you,
The Lord...

Dismissal

Receiving communion on the way out.