

All Saints' Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in Fort Worth

December 24th, 2023

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

8:00 p.m.

Solemn Choral Eucharist
Rite I

**The Rector, Vestry, and Rector's Staff
wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas season!**

A note to our deaf and hard of hearing parishioners:

*If you would like to view the livestream of tonight's service with closed captions, visit our
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintstheepiscopalchurch.fortworth>*

The Wi-Fi network is: ASES Guest The password is: !FindTheGeniusWithin!

*Please turn off cellphones and other electronic devices
that could intrude on the solemnity of this service.*

The Hymn of Praise

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. *Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect of the Day

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.

People Amen.

The People shall sit.

The Lesson, Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7 (sit)

Revised Standard Version

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness, from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Anthem (remain seated)

Michael Bedford

Christ is born! Christ is born! Noel! Sing Noel! Lying in a manger small, nestled in a cattle stall, Mary, Joseph standing near, nothing, nothing shall he fear. *Refrain.* Angels sing of Jesus' birth, bringing news to all the earth; shepherds worship and adore, praise his name for evermore. *Refrain.*

The Epistle, Titus 2:11-14

Revised Standard Version

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Subdeacon The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

MENDELSSOHN

Hymn 87, Hark! the herald angels sing (1-2/3)

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The Holy Gospel, Luke 2:1-14

Revised Standard Version

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came

for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sequence Hymn continues.

3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The Sermon (*sit*)

The Nicene Creed (*stand*)

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 I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our bishops and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the armed forces, medical, emergency and relief workers, and for all in harm's way, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners, captives, refugees, and all displaced persons, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds the concluding Collect.

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.

People Amen.

The Peace

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'Celebrant' and contains the lyrics 'The peace of the Lord be al - ways with you.' The second staff is labeled 'People' and contains the lyrics 'And with thy spi - rit.' Both staves are in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and use a common time signature (C). The melody is simple, with notes placed on a five-line staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Carol, *Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900),*
arr. Barry Rose (born 1934)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels, bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babelsounds, the blessed angels sing. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angels' strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong, and man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring; O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when, with the ever circling years, comes round the Age of Gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The Presentation and Censing Hymn (*stand*)

Hymn 79, O little town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People AMEN.

The Our Father, Hymn S 119

Plainsong, adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

The Ministration of Communion

If you have been baptized and receive communion in your home church, we invite you to join us for Communion. If you have not been baptized, please come to the altar rail for a blessing.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 115, What child is this

GREENSLEEVES

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Hymn 112, In the bleak midwinter

CRANHAM

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

Descant

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line
4 "The heav - en - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng

2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind."
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

The Ablutions Anthem, A cradle song

Arnold Cooke

O men from the fields! Come gently within. Tread softly, softly, O men coming in! Mavourneen is going from me and from you, where Mary will fold him with mantle of blue! From reek of the smoke, and cold of the floor, and the peering of things across the half-door. O men from the fields! Soft, softly come through - Mary puts round him her mantle of blue.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

The Procession

Hymn 83, O come, all ye faithful (*stand*)

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

The Last Gospel, John 1:1-14

Revised Standard Version

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The People shall kneel.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Hymn, Silent night (*kneel*)

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The String Postlude, O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Stuart Carlson

Lay and Ordained Ministers

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Canon Christopher N. Jambor

DEACON OF THE MASS/PREACHER

The Rev. M. Madeleine Hill

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

Clive Driskill-Smith

LECTOR

Warrant Officer, Christopher P. Jambor, U.S. Army

SUBDEACON

Ann Jambor

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Pat Jambor, Woei Ming, Dabney Shires

ACOLYTE MASTER

Sean Schneidewent

THURIFER

Marc Schneidewent

ACOLYTES

Hadley Worsham, Will Worsham, Haley Keener, Landon Keener,
M.E. Ming, Molly Ming, George Ming

THE ALL SAINTS' CHOIR

James Dickens, Helen Ferguson, David Griffin, Richard Henderson,
Jaden Jackson-Cooper, Anne Michels, Victor Michels,
Lynne Minor, Ryan Partovi, Angel Reeve, Sue Shields, Maxime Vrig

THE ALL SAINTS' STRING QUARTET

Ivo Ivanov (violin), Xiaohua Sheng (violin),
Anna Kolotylna (viola), Nikola Ruzevic (cello)