



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Welcome to St. Catherine's

We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to fill out a visitor card, which can be found on the back of the chair in front of you. Completed cards may be given to a greeter or placed in the collection plate.

“BCP” before a page number refers to the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks. “H” before a page number refers to the blue hymnal. Both are in the pew.

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

Serving Today

The Rev. Dillon Green, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Carol Dotson, *Vestry Person of the Day*

Scott Reimer, LEM/*Crucifer*
James Johnson & Kaiser
Dominguez, *Torchbearers*
Teresa McLarty, *Lector*
Brent McLarty, *Intercessor*

Carol Dotson & Sasha Johns,
Counters
Julie Kennedy, *Altar Guild*
Bill Traylor, *Technology*
Sasha Johns, *Greeter*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

The Gloria

Glory Be To God On High

Gloria [paraphrase]

The St. James Christmas Service

Joyously

Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de-clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,

draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.

A musical score for a single voice part. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). The vocal line begins with a half note 'Glo', followed by a sixteenth-note pattern: a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note. This pattern repeats three times, followed by a half note 'ri', a half note 'a', and a final half note 'a' on a different pitch.

A musical score for a single melodic line. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. Measure 1 consists of six eighth notes followed by a repeat sign and a double bar line. Measure 2 begins with a half note, followed by a half note with a curved line, and then a half note. The lyrics "in ex - cel - sis De - o!" are written below the notes. The vocal line starts on a high note and descends through various intervals.

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 the Book of 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

The Psalm will be read responsively by half verse.

- 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.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 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."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder 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.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

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.**

Cantor sings Alleluia; Congregation repeats Alleluia; Cantor sings verse; All repeat Alleluia.

CHRISTMAS SEASON GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Barbara Bridge

Adapted from the *Sussex Carol*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: the Lord is God and has given us light. Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dillon Green

A period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, please stand as able.

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP 388

Concluding Collect

The Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

BCP 360

The Announcements

Offertory Hymn 81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

As the offerings are brought to the altar, standing as you are able, the following is sung

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Sanctus

The St. James Christmas Service

Gently [in One]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and_ might, ____ heav'n and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. ____ Ho - - san - na in the
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem

O Lamb Of God

Fraction Anthem

The St. James Christmas Service

Gently [In One]

O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary. This, this is your body given, Your precious blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

The Invitation**BCP 364****Communion Hymn 109****The first Nowell the angel did say**

After communion, once everyone has returned to their seats, acolytes will help light candles, and all will sing Silent Night.

Communion Hymn 111**Silent night, holy night****Post-Communion Prayer****BCP 365****The Blessing****BOS 11**

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.**Post-Communion Hymn 87****Hark! the herald angels sing****Dismissal****BCP 366****Postlude**

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We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd.

We pray for Kairos Prison Ministry and Kairos Outside, for ministries for infants and children, and for children of clergy. We pray also for the Church of the Nativity, Huntsville.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Clydene, Steven, Heather, Wendy, Angel, Marti, Joseph, Tracy, John, Sue, Addie, Wanda, Bill, Alice, Claire, Amy, Sasha, Elizabeth, Sharon, Elizabeth, Vicki, Roger, Will, Addi, and Bethany Shae.

We pray those who serve in the military, especially John Morris.

S A V E T H E D A T E S

Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 6 pm!

January 3rd—First Saturday Breakfast at 9 am!

January 3rd—Bishop Walkabout at Saint Luke's at 1 pm!

Our Mission

To seek, love, and serve God through worship, education, and service and to share the redeeming love of Christ with the world.

Our Vision

St. Catherine's, the Episcopal Church in Chelsea, is a welcoming and inclusive family called by Christ to receive and share God's love.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry
Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior
Assisting Bishop

The Rev. Dillon Green
Rector

The Rev. Clyde Pearce
Deacon

Dr. Matthew West, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Julie Seal
Parish Administrator

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

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