

# WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S CHAPEL

*Open hearts, open minds, open doors*

Four O'clock in the Evening  
Tuesday, December 24, 2024

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHAPEL, 42 NORTH EAGLEVILLE RD, STORRS, CT

# THE ENTRANCE RITE

PRELUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

BWV 608, J.S. Bach

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Reader:* Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

**People:** O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

*Reader:* With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us.

**People:** This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

*Reader:* The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, “Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!” John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God’s glory—full of grace and truth.

*Deacon:* The Word was made flesh, \* Alleluia, alleluia.

**People:** The Word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.

*And dwelt among us:* **People:** alleluia, alleluia.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

**People:** The Word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, alleluia:*

**People:** God is the Lord; he has shined upon us, alleluia.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83 v.1-3,6

“O come, all ye faithful”

*Adeste fideles*

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

BCP p. 355

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

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**A**lmighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

*Glory be to God on high*

St. James Christmas Service

Glo - ry be to God on high, To all peo - ple,  
 Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare Lamb of God and  
 Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One. Prai - ses sing in  
 7  
 peace on earth; An - gels, shep - herds draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le -  
 Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from  
 11  
 high - est heav'n; To the Fa - ther and the Son and the Ho - ly  
 brate His birth.  
 heav'en a - bove. Glo - - - - -  
 Spi - rit giv'n.  
 15  
 - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De - - - o!

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## THE COLLECT FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

BCP p. 212

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you. Let us pray.

**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 LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**THE FIRST LESSON:** A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

**T**he 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** (*spoken*)

*Cantate Domino*

- 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.

**THE SECOND LESSON:** A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

Titus 2:11-14

**F**or 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.**

### *The People stand*

**GRADUAL HYMN 79: 1, 2**

*"O little town of Bethlehem"*

*Saint Louis*

*Those in the front rows turn to follow the procession as it passes*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1-20

*Gospeler:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Gospeler:* The Holy Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**I**n 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 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.

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

**GRADUAL HYMN 79: 3, 5**

*"O little town of Bethlehem"*

*Saint Louis*

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today;  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

*The People are seated*

**THE SERMON**

The Rev'd Philip Bjornberg

*The People stand*

**THE NICENE CREED**

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**W**e believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

**W**e 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.

**F**or 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.

**O**n 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.

**W**e 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 People remain standing*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Deacon:* Brothers and sisters, confident in the Word made flesh and dwelling among us, let us bring to our loving God the petitions in our hearts this Christmas Eve.

**F**or the community of believers throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership and authority, that they might direct us toward the service of God's glory and the spread of His light to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

#### **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church gathered this Christmas Eve, that through our worship of the Word made flesh he might show himself through us in all we say and think and do, let us pray to the Lord.

#### **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all refugees, and for the victims of war, violence, and injustice, that they might know the power of the newborn Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

#### **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Congregation says in unison:*

**All loving and gracious God, we thank you for taking flesh among us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in a power beyond ourselves, trusting in your enduring love, we have offered our prayers. May you hear and answer them in that same Love, who is Jesus, your Son, our Lord and brother. AMEN**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN** *(The People may remain standing)*

BCP p. 360

*Deacon:* Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world., saying,

**M**ost merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.

### **ABSOLUTION**

*Celebrant:* May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins ✠, that you may behold the glory of the Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

### **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant:* Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,

**People: and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.**

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **People: And also with you.**

*The People are seated.*

*Celebrant:*

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

*All who are baptized in any branch of Christ's Church are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a Blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about Baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.*

*The Offering is taken during the hymn and brought forward at its conclusion.*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN 109**

*"The first Nowell"*

*The First Nowell*

1 The First Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
in fields as they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Refrain: Nowell Nowell Nowell Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel!

2 They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far  
to seek for a King was their intent  
and to follow the star wherever it went  
Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the north west,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Refrain

5 Then entered in those wise men three  
Full reverently up on their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood our life hath bought.  
Refrain

*(The Congregation Rises)*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**I**T is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, who by water and the Holy Spirit has made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,  
 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,  
 Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

**W**e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

**O**n the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory;**

**A**nd we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts ✠ that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, ✠ that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Godbearer, St. Joseph, St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,*

*BCP P.364*

**O**ur 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a memorial of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross.*

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People:** therefore let us keep the feast.

THE FRACTION S-155 (*Sung*)

Near

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
 therefore let us keep the feast.  
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**ORGAN MEDITATION AT HOLY COMMUNION** “*Wachet auf*”

BWV 645, J.S. Bach

*When Holy Communion is complete, the congregation receives tapers to be lighted and held, kneeling or standing, during the following hymn.*

**HYMN 111**

“*Silent night, holy night*”

*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.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream  
from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts  
sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love’s pure light.  
radiant beams  
from thy holy face,  
with the dawn  
of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**THE CONCLUDING RITE**

*All stand*

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. (*In unison*)

**E**ternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POST COMMUNION COLLECT** (*Celebrant*)

**T**o you, O Christ, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly prayers and humble thanks; for love of our human race you most wonderfully chose to be born of Mary, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by; so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in the image of God; to whom, one blessed Trinity, be given all honor, might, majesty and power, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**THE CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION AND BLESSING**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**People: he has come to his people and set them free.**

*Celebrant:* Light has sprung up for the righteous

**People: and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.**

*Celebrant:* Glory to God in the highest

**People: and peace to his people on earth.**

**M**AY 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. **AMEN.**

**M**ay Almighty 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. **AMEN.**

**M**ay God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **AMEN.**

**A**ND the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

**CONCLUDING HYMN 100**

*"Joy to the World"*

*Antioch*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns  
Let us our songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love

**DISMISSAL**

*Deacon:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Wir Christenleut"*

BWV 612, J.S. Bach

*The Vestry of St. Mark's wishes you and yours the fullness of joy in the celebration of the Nativity. If you do not already have a church home, we hope you will return again soon.  
If you are travelling, we wish you Godspeed and safety.*



**Thank you to our Sunday Ministers.  
December 24, 2024,  
The Nativity of our Lord**

**We don't have anyone yet.**

**Christmas Flowers**

