

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Waretown, NJ
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Thursday, December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve

Prelude (*Remain Seated*)

Processional (*Stand*)

The Word of God

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant may say

Almighty 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.

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is said, all standing

Glorify 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 of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

The people sit. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from Isaiah [9:2-7]

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.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;*
 Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;*
 Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations*
 And his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;*
 He is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;*
 But it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!*
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;*
 Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;*
 Bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;*
 Let the whole earth tremble before him.
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.”
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.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 Before the Lord when he comes,*
 When he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness*
 And the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from Titus [2:11-14]

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.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying
 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
 Luke [2:1-14 (15-20)]

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 to them.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

The Nicene Creed

The people standing, the Celebrant and people says

**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 III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly
serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

Most 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.**

The Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Offertory Hymn

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We 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 and into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus 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; 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,

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

The Celebrant continues

And 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 St. Stephen 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 unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then say

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. 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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems maybe sung

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal 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.**

Blessings & Prayers

Announcements

The Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude