

ST. JOHN'S
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PLYMOUTH



HOLY EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2017
10:00 am

+ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +

(Responses of the people are written in bold font through the bulletin)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: HYMNAL 93

Angels From the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE READING

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 laboured;

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL (*please rise in body or spirit*)

LUKE 2: 8-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Pastor Dana Runestad

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

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

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

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 - ell
 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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(please rise in body or spirit)*

On Christmas, Christians the world over celebrate Jesus' birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, Mary in the pain of labor brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Bring comfort to all who have experienced grief and loss, in the hope of heaven. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On Christmas, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with the Blessed Mary and all the saints. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the newborn Savior be always with you.

And also with you.

+ THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE +

THE OFFERTORY

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All loose offerings will support the mission outreach ministries of St. John's including the Food Pantry and Crossroads Soup Kitchen. Give generously!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ your only Son to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.

Holy and Gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to this table, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time.
You who have much faith, and you who would like to have more.
You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed.
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All who hunger for God are welcomed to the Lord's supper. Please remain seated until an usher invites your row forward.

To receive the bread please put your hands together palms up in front of you. Then either eat the bread and drink directly from the cup of wine, or allow the server with the wine to dip the bread in the wine and place it in your mouth. Gluten-free wafers are available in a separate bowl. Please point to them if this is your preference.

If you are unable to come forward and wish to have Communion brought to you, please inform an usher.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(please rise in body or spirit)*

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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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest. Let us go forth in the name of the new-born Christ.
Thanks be to God. Glory to God in the Highest!

WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!



FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16

Pastor Dana
Punnett

Liz Calverton

Phyllis Begam

Jayne Watson