The Gospel of the Lord.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from 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 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.

Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands as the hymn is introduced.

Hymn 124—stanzas 1-2

What Star Is This

Puer nobis

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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.

Prayers of the People

Common Worship (Church of England)

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save.

Wonderful Counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders; guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Organ Voluntary

Christmas Doxology

Regent Square

As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and joins in singing:

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord...

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God... It is right... to give our 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.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Puer nobis
Therefore we praise you, O Lord of all, 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 these last days you sent him to be incarnate through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put him to death by the cross of shame, and exalted him to your right hand in the glory of your Name: and from this glory, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you, and to behold your holy Name.

Communion
In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are encouraged to receive communion. This is the Lord’s table. It is the Lord’s wish that those who want to reaffirm their union with the Lord and each other should receive communion. During communion, please come forward at the direction of the ushers to the high altar, filling in at the altar rail from right to left, and either kneeling or standing to receive. For those who prefer not to use the steps, please signal the clergy circulating to request that communion be brought to you in your pew. Our custom in the Episcopal Church is to receive both elements by putting hands forward, palms crossed and facing upward to receive the bread, and by guiding the chalice lightly to receive the wine. Please note that receiving just the bread or wine alone is fully receiving communion. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available at the high altar; let the priest know when you go up to receive.

The congregation stands when the Celebrant returns to the altar. The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. The congregation remains standing, and the Celebrant continues to pray:

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

The congregation stands when the Celebrant returns to the altar. The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. The congregation remains standing, and the Celebrant continues to pray:

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 congregation stands when the Celebrant returns to the altar.

Postcommunion Prayer
Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing
May the Baby of Bethlehem bring you joy; may the Boy of Nazareth bring you hope; may the Man from Galilee bring you love; may the Risen Lord of Jerusalem bring you peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen.

Hymn 107
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
In dulci jubilo

The Dismissal
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.