The Word of God

Christmas Acclamation

Celebrant  Alleluia! For unto us a Child is born; People Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!

The following hymn is said, all standing

Psalm 84:1-8

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts.*
   My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
   my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
   
2 The sparrow has found her a house
   and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
   by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
   
3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
   they will always be praising you.
   
4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
   whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.
   
5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
   for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
   
6 They will climb from height to height, *
   and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
   
7 The Lord of hosts will hear my prayer; *
   hearken, O God of Jacob.
   
8 Behold our defender, O God; *
   and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The congregation stands as the Gospel is introduced.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 have 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 by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is 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, 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 treasure chests, 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.

Prayers of the People

The leader adds specific intercessions to the prayers where appropriate.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world. Almighty and everlasting God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and to inculcate in all nations a love of peace, and of concord; and to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Hymn

A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

Nicene Creed

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 worshipped 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.

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And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands.

Confession of Sin and Absolution (congregation kneeling) Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And with thy spirit.

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.

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord.

People And of thine have we given thee.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying, Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

All glory be to thee, O Lord God of hosts; we make do our thanksgiving, and do make it us thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thine people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial Thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his precious and passionate death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-belonged Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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, lest 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

Celebrant 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. Behold who you are; become what you receive.

The congregation begins moving forward to the altar rail as soon as the Celebrant says the words, “The Gifts of God for the People of God.”

Communion

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are encouraged to receive communion. This is the Lord’s Supper. It is the Lord who invites you. It is his wish that those who want him should meet him here. 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 steps, please ask the ushers for an altar step that communion be brought to you in your pew. Our custom in the Episcopal Church is to receive both elements by using both hands forward, palms upward 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 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, lest 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.

Following Communion, the congregation stands for the Postcommunion Prayer and Blessing.

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant Amen. And with thy spirit.

People And with thine heart.

Pam, Pat, Patricia, Peggy, Peter, Phyllis, Renee, Regine, Reysean, Richard, Ricky, Robbie, Robert, Sally, Sandra, Sara, Scott, Sharon, Shawn, Spencer, Stephen, Sue, Susan, Suzi, Sylvia, Taryn, Ted, Thomas, Tom, Van de Water family, Vicki, Vincent, Ward, Wendy, Water family, and those serving our country... Alex, Benjamin, Christian, Clara, Eric, George, Harold, Herbert, John, Lorrie, Luther Michael, Thomas, Tommy, and William.

Prayers for healing and wholeness have been asked for... Alice, Andrew, Angela, Anne, Anita, Anthony, Arlo, Austin, Becky, Beverly, Bill Ed, Bob, Bobby, Carmen, Celia, Charles, Chip, Chris, Christine, Chuck, Colby family, Dalia, Dan, David, Debbie, Deborah, DJ, Don, Donna, Dorothy, Edwin, Elena, Emmy, Eugene, Evan, Frank, Fred, Gay, George, Gerry, Griffen, Helen, Hitchcock family, Holly, Hunter, Jack, James, Jan, Janet, Jesse, Jerry, Joaquin, John, Jonathan, Judy, Kay, Kelley, Kelly Ann, Ken, Kendall, Kim, Larry, Linda, Louis, Lucie, Lynn, Malcolm, Mallory, Marcia, Marie, Mariela, Marge, Mark, Mark, Martin, Mary, Mary Ann, Matthew, Merrill family, Michael, Michelle, Miriam, Nancy, Nathan, Neil, Nolan family, Pam, Pat, Patricia, Peggy, Peter, Phyllis, Renee, Regine, Reysean, Richard, Ricky, Robbi, Robert, Sally, Sandra, Sara, Scott, Sharon, Shawn, Spencer, Stephen, Sue, Susan, Suzi, Sylvia, Taryn, Ted, Thomas, Tom, Van de Water family, Vicki, Vincent, Ward, Wendy, Water family, and those serving our country... Alex, Benjamin, Christian, Clara, Eric, George, Harold, Herbert, John, Lorrie, Luther Michael, Thomas, Tommy, and William.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Juan Luis Alvarez.

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant Amen. And with thy spirit.

People And with thine heart.

Pam, Pat, Patricia, Peggy, Peter, Phyllis, Renee, Regine, Reysean, Richard, Ricky, Robbi, Robert, Sally, Sandra, Sara, Scott, Sharon, Shawn, Spencer, Stephen, Sue, Susan, Suzi, Sylvia, Taryn, Ted, Thomas, Tom, Van de Water family, Vicki, Vincent, Ward, Wendy, Water family, and those serving our country... Alex, Benjamin, Christian, Clara, Eric, George, Harold, Herbert, John, Lorrie, Luther Michael, Thomas, Tommy, and William.

Posting Communion Prayer

Almighty and eternally God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O Heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works, as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

May the joy and the pleasantness which God bestoweth upon thee bring thee joy; may the Boy of Nazareth bring thee joy; 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.

The Dismissal

Deacon

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Thanks be to God.