

## The Word of God

### PRELUDE

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*The people stand.*

*O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)*

Hymnal 83

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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*The Celebrant continues*

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.*

### GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high (Gloria)*

Hymnal 96

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

*The Celebrant prays the Collect*

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, on God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### FIRST READING

*The people sit.*

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

*All are invited to join with the antiphon.*

*Antiphon*



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. *Antiphon.*

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. *Antiphon.*

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." *Antiphon.*

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 tress of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, When he come to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth. *Antiphon.*

**SECOND READING**

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.

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*While shepherds watched their flocks (Winchester Old)*

*The people stand and sing verses 1-3 before the reading of the Gospel, and verses 4-6 after the reading.*

**GOSPEL**

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

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

## **THE SERMON**

*The people sit.*

## **THE NICENE CREED**

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*The people stand.*

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**

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*The people kneel or stand.*

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*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **THE PEACE**

*The people stand.*

BCP p. 360

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

## The Holy Communion

### **OFFERTORY**

*The people sit.*

*All Bells in Paradise*

John Rutter

Deep in the cold of winter,  
Darkness and silence were ev'rywhere;  
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness a  
wonderful sound,  
A wonderful sound to hear.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.  
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.

Lost in awe and wonder,  
Doubting I asked what this sign may be;  
Christ, our Messiah, revealed in a stable,  
A marvelous sight, a marvelous sight to see.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.

He comes down in peace,  
A child in humility,  
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;  
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,  
Gold, incense, and myrrh.

All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth, a heavenly King.  
All bells in paradise, I heard them ring,  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing,  
The angel voices sweetly sing.

### **DOXOLOGY**

*The people stand.*

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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 the Blessed Paul, 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*The Celebrant continues*

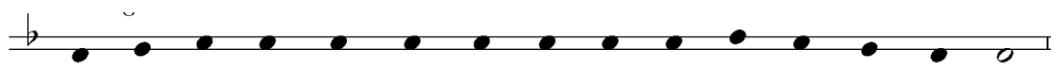
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

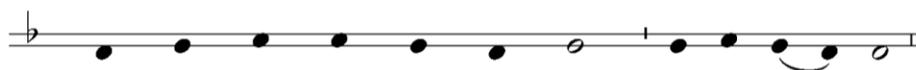
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

NOTE ON RECEIVING COMMUNION: All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament regardless of age or denomination. Those who have not been baptized are welcome to receive a blessing – indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Intercessory prayer teams are available to pray with you at the back of the nave.

**COMMUNION MUSIC***A Christmas Blessing*

Philip Stopford

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

Stephen Smith, *soloist***POST-COMMUNION HYMN***Silent night, holy night (Stille Nacht)*

Hymnal 111

*The people remain standing as their candles are lit.***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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*The people stand*

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.

**BLESSING**

May 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.*

May 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.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.* And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN***Joy to the world! the Lord is come (Antioch)*

Hymnal 100

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the People with these words*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**POSTLUDE**


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**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS 2025****Evergreen Dedications***Door wreaths are given to the Glory of God*

In thanksgiving for the St. Paul's Parishioners who serve within the church and in our community,  
by Stan and Laney Golden

In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Boyce B. Pryor Jr., by Sharon Dieringer and family

In thanksgiving for our sons, Richard, Gary, Kevin and Ryan,  
by Carol & Louis Deken

In memory of Aiden Liam Hay, by Ian, Kristi, & Callum Hay.

**Poinsettia Dedications***Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God*

In thanksgiving for Celeste and Daphne  
by Nick & Sharon Dieringer

In memory of James Marshall Hamby  
by Melissa & Morris Hamby

In memory of Emma Langenhop Detmer Baldwin Toombs, Carl E Langerhopp, and Rose Michler  
by Richard & Carol Detmer

In memory of Dawn Wooley  
by The Mullen Family (Chris, Nicole, Emeylou, Gavin & Maggie)

In thanksgiving for our family & friends in England, Australia, Canada  
and our church family & friends in Murfreesboro  
by Jenny & Rex Fayter

In memory of William & Bernadine Deken and Fred & Dorothy Pieschel  
by Carol & Louis Deken

In memory of Dianne Smith, grandmother of the Casteels  
by Matt, Tristin, Nora, and Maggie Casteel

In thanksgiving for our children, Peyton, Andie, and Hayes  
by David & Stacey Owen

In memory of Joe's parents, Greg and Anna Hill  
by Joe and Jeanmarie Hill

#### **Altar Flower Dedications**

*Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God*

In memory of Steve Sachs  
by Brenda Sachs

In memory of Bridget Dieringer  
by Nick, Sharon, Celeste & Daphne Dieringer

In memory of Joan L. & John C. Neff; Margaret Delaney Neff; Cora Linden; Alice Hay  
by Tom Neff

In thanksgiving for our daughters, Nora & Maggie,  
by Tristin & Matt Casteel

In thanksgiving for God's many blessings  
by Tom & Barbara Collins

In memory of Ardis McFadden, late mother of Patti, and Vernon Keeler, late cousin of Patti,  
by Tom & Patti Washer

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The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector  
The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Funmi Odidi, Volunteer Priest Associate  
The Rev. Dn. Josh Wilson, Pastoral Resident  
Dr. Sean Vogt, Director of Music  
Lector: Carol Detmer, Richard Detmer  
Intercessor: Newt Molloy  
Chalice Bearer: Jennifer Groth, Cleve Harrison, Steve Luboniecki  
Prayer Team: Nancy Loucky, David Rowe, David Loucky, Byrena Kirkham  
Acolytes: Peyton Owen, Andie Owen, Hayes Owen, George Carlson  
Ushers: Charles Owen, David Owen, Bill Hooper, Mary Probert  
Altar Guild: Sue Koechlein, Helen Bayne, Victoria Atamer, Dixie Groutt  
Flowers by the Flower Guild  
Technical Team: Jeanne Potter, Don Whitfield