



# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



**6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE, 2024**

*Large Print Bulletins are available from an Usher*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Please stand at the ringing of the bell*

**Entrance**

*O come, all ye faithful*

**Hymnal 1982 #83**

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

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

*Said by all*

***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.***

**Song of Praise**

*Angels we have heard on high*

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. *silence*

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

*The People are seated for the lessons*

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 97 (Read responsively by whole verse)**

1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; \*  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

3 A fire goes before him \*  
and burns up his enemies on every side.

**4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
the earth sees it and is afraid.**

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, \*  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

**6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
and all the peoples see his glory.**

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
Bow down before him, all you gods.

**8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

**12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, \*  
and give thanks to his holy Name.**

**Titus 3:4-7**

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*Go tell it on the mountain*

**Hymnal 1982 #99**

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

**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**Luke 2:1-20**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage David: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of

the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

### **Sermon**

*Standing*

#### **The 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 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**

Gracious God, on this night we remember the birth of the one who came to draw all the world to you.

Continue to draw us into closer fellowship with you and each other. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give your Spirit to your Church, as you gave it to Mary, that your Christ may be formed in us and that we may bring his grace into this hurting world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Your Son came to be Prince of Peace, grant to the nations of the world a foretaste of the peace he longs to bring. Give us grace to tear down the walls that divide us that we may be one people united under one Lord. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Like us, Jesus knew the fullness of human life, including pain and sorrow. Comfort those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit and give them the joy of life restored. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

By his life among us Jesus opened the way for us to eternal life. We pray to you for those who have died that now rejoice in your nearer presence, they may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

The angels brought the message of Messiah's birth to the shepherds in the fields. Move us to bring the message of his grace to all who do not yet know him, and to those who have lost their knowledge of him. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your Son came to proclaim forgiveness of sins, hear us now as we confess our need for pardon.  
**With confidence in your loving kindness, we confess we have failed to live according to your commandments. We have sought our own will and not yours. Our actions have hurt others and ourselves and have grieved your heart. For the sake of him who came to share our human life, forgive our sins and give us grace to amend our lives according to your gracious will. Amen.**

*Presider*

God who is rich in mercy offers forgiveness of sins and has given power and commandment to his Church to pronounce forgiveness to all who confess in sincerity and truth. In the name of God I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father; the Son: and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The People stand as they are able*

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Choir Anthem**

*Sleeps Judea Fair*

Hugh A. Mac Kinnon

*The People stand as the offerings are presented.*

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## The Holy Communion

*Standing*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

**Hymnal 1982 #S129**

**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.*

*Presider*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Presider and People*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Presider*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Russell our own Bishop, your servants here assembled, all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who are born on this holy night.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with Holy Mother Mary, St. Joseph, St. Paul, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

*People AMEN.*

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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread - a period of silence is kept)*

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand.  
Christ, our God, to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood  
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food.**

**Invitation to Communion**

The Word became flesh,  
**And dwelt among us.**  
Behold the Word made flesh,  
**Come let us adore him.**

**Communion Hymns**

*What child is this v. 1 & 2  
Silent Night*

**Hymnal 1982 #115  
Hymnal 1982 #111**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**God, our Father, tonight you have made known to us again the power and coming of our Jesus Christ; who has given himself to us in bread and wine. May our Christmas celebration confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him who is the Savior of the world. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.**



### **The 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.**

### **Hymn**

*Hark, the herald angels sing*

**Hymnal 1982 #87**

### **Dismissal**

*Presider* We have heard great tidings of great joy.

*People* **Unto us a Savior is born.**

*Presider* Let us go with haste to tell others of this wonderous birth.

*People* **So they too may come and worship.**

*Presider* Go forth to tell of the coming of Christ.

*People* **With joyful hearts we go.**

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

**Carly Cowart**

**Ellis McClinton**

**Kori McClung**

**Ryleigh McClung**

**Willa Mund**

**Leyah Reed**

**Savannah Warrington**

**CHURCH DECORATIONS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF**

Frederick Grout, Donnie Grout, Marie & Matthew Zak, Pat & Ron Roth and Fr Paul  
Johansen by The Zaks

Kyle & Liz Sellars, Ruth & D.D. Howard and Leonard Ochs by Julie & John Ochs

Thomas Earl & Janie Sawyer by their children and family

Berwyn & Mildred Burns and Bob Burns by Cindy Robison

All the Stockes family by Judy Hamburg

Alan & Nancy by Carol Ferdinandsen

Joerg and Betty, Ann, Gina and Jody by Jennifer Lawrence

Loving memory of John Coleman and Rick Coleman by Lee Coleman

James Michael by Betty Lisle

My family by Karla Harmon

Family by Nellie Topp

**CHURCH DECORATIONS ARE ALSO GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING FOR**

Lee Coleman by her family

Family & dogs by Chery Williams

Max & Reed by Cynthia & Bill Tunnell

Blessings-past, present and future by John & Trixie Foley

All my blessing-family, friends & church by Joanna Hardin

Kids, Grandkids & great grandkids by Wayne & Rita Verry

My children by Nelle Topp

My church family by Karla Harmon

My family by Betty Lisle

My wonderful family and my many blessings by Lee Coleman

David, Whitney, George and family by Jennifer Lawrence

Church & family by Linda & Gene Ford

Many blessings by Katherine & Ellis Allen

**Christmas Day service of the Holy Eucharist will be at 10:00 am**

**A service of Christmas Lessons and Carols will be held  
Sunday, December 29<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am  
(Holy Eucharist at 7:30 am)**

**Christian Formation will resume January 5th.**

**The Church office will be closed beginning December 24 and will reopen  
on January 6 at 9 am. If there is a pastoral emergency please contact  
Pastor Brent at 828 231-4990.**

**THE CHURCH STAFF WISHES EACH OF YOU  
A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

**Copyright and Streaming Permission notice for the Holy  
Eucharist,  
Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:00 pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Foley, AL  
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***O Holy Night***

Contributors: Adolphe Adam, Adolphe Adam  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***Angels from the realms of glory***

Contributors: James Montgomery, Henry Smart, Stephen DeCesare  
Tune: Public Domain Text: Public Domain

***Venite Adoremus***

Text: 10 10 10 10 with refrain; based on Isaiah 7:14; 19th cent.; anon. Music: Trad. melody; adapt. in Catholic Hymns, Albany, New York, 1860.

Contributors: VENITE ADOREMUS

***O come, all ye faithful***

WORDS: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)  
MUSIC: *Adeste fideles*, John Francis Wade, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***Angels we have heard on high***

WORDS: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882)  
MUSIC: *Gloria, French carol*; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***Hark, the herald angels sing***

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
MUSIC: *Mendelson*, Felix Mendelssohn, (1809-1847)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***Past Three O'clock***

*Traditional English Carol, Arr. Jonathan Willcocks*

***What child is this***

WORDS: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  
MUSIC: *Greensleeves*, English melody:  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***As the grains of wheat***

Marty Haugen: Now the Feast and Celebration  
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***Sanctus***

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)  
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***Silent Night***

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792- 1848)  
TUNE: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

***Joy to the world***

Contributors: Isaac Watts, George Handel  
Tune: Music: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, in T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833.  
Text: Text: Ps 96; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748.

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