

"They shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 10:30 am

Matthew 1:23b

We worship today according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two,
beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn:

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love!.....252

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

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

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....56

Verses 1, 7, and 8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation,
that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a
mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD
your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But
Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the
test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too
little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the
young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall
name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the
time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.
For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose
the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread
will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the
cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall
be saved.**

O LORD God of hosts, *

**how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall
be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *

**the son of man you have made so strong for
yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall
be saved.**

The Epistle - Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set
apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand
through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel
concerning his Son, who was descended from David
according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God
with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection
from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have
received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience
of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,
including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus
Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Matthew 1:18-25 (the
people stand)

Hymn: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.....265

Verses 1-2

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

Glorify to You, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.....265
Verses 3-4

Sermon

Father Wells

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.

The Prayers of the People (Form I, page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, Kee and Santosh, our Bishops, Wells, our Priest, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Barack, our President, Robert, our governor, Bobby, our mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For **Lynda Denton, Dot and Thurman Harris, Charlotte and Lannon Poole, Dezel Oliver** (Kathy Haynie), **Billie Wilkinson, Lindsey Burt** (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Kathy Brumbleloe** (Jere and Pam Van Etten), **Oletta Goodwin, Sherry Gritz** (Jean Kerr), **Clifford Flood** (Jean Kerr), **Robert Lumpkin** (Barbara Trogdon), **Emmanuel Rico** (Mike and Elizabeth Harber), **Carrie Phillips** (Sharon Cleary) and the others we now name: (*Silence, during which the people offer their own petitions*) let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.** (*Silence*)

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect:

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn:

How Bright Appears the Morning Star.....497

The Presentation

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p 367)

(Musical Response in the Hymnal at S 120)

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.

(Father Wells says a Proper Preface)

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:

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord*.....S 130

The people stand or kneel

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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 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.**

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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*.....S 164

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: *Jesus, Name Above All Names*.....SH-73

After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn (*the people stand*):

Hark! The Glad Sound!.....72

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

We will celebrate Christmas Eve with a Festival Holy Eucharist.
Come at 6:00 pm to sing all our favorite Christmas carols we couldn't sing during Advent!
The Holy Eucharist will begin at 6:30.
Plan to stay after worship for a Christmas party in the Little House.

And then there's Epiphany. We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany January 5:

- No Sunday School
- Festival Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am
- Epiphany Sunday Dinner
- Annual church membership meeting

Fifth Sunday Lunches in 2014.

Here are the other dates set for lunch on the grounds after worship during 2014:

- March 30
- June 29
- August 31
- November 30

Eucharistic Minister Training. All who wish to serve as Eucharistic Ministers are invited to a training workshop in the nave on January 12 immediately following worship. We hope all who wish to serve will be present, even those who have been serving already. We can all use a refresher!

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Lee and Amanda Borden
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones
Lay Reader: Lannon Poole
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Tom Bray
Refreshments: Pam Harper
Stewards: Cathy Jones and Laura Williams

For Christmas Eve . . .

Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: Nancy Dupree
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Jean Kerr
Refreshments: Everyone
Stewards: Pam and Jere Van Etten

And for next week (December 29) . . .

Ushers: Pam and Jere Van Etten
Altar Guild: Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Lee Borden
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Lee Borden
Refreshments: To be determined
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord