For unto you is born this day in the city of **Episcopal Church of the Epiphany** David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Christmas Eve Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament Luke 2:11 December 24, 2019, 6:30 pm

We worship today according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer, together with the supplemental The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

# The Word of God

We begin in darkness and silence

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City.....102

We will be seated. The violin will play, Esther will sing the first verse, and the quartet will sing the second verse. Then we will stand and sing verses 3-6 together.

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.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 Lessons (we sit)

The Old Testament Lesson – 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. The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God Psalm 96 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples. 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods. 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the Lord who made the heavens. 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 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."

11 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.** 

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12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*

when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

The Epistle Lesson – Titus 2:11-14

For 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.

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God** 

## Hymn: Joy to the World (we stand).....100

The Gospel – Luke 2:1-14 (from the King James Version)

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

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 Cyrenius 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 of 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; Ye 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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Kelley Hudlow

The Nicene Creed (we 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.

Prayers of the People (Form III, page 387 BCP) (*We stand or kneel*)

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.

#### Silenæ

Here in our parish, we pray for **Mike** Oniffrey, **Micah** Hart, **Dennis** Harper, **Charlie** Hayes, **Larry** and **Pat** Sharpton, **Troy** Warlick, **Arnold** and **Nancy** Bush, **Dezsel** Oliver, **Tom** Haynie, **Willodean**, and the others we now name.

### The People may add their own petitions.

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

## The Peace

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

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

## The Offertory

| Hymn: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing | 87 |
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|                                    |    |

# Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament

We believe that in the Holy Eucharist, the elements of bread and wine are not mere signs, but that Christ himself is really present. In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

And now, let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us,

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 Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Deacon receives the Sacrament in both kinds, and them distributes it to the servers and to us.

As we return to our seat after receiving communion, we take a candle.

After Communion, the Deacon leads the post Communion prayer.

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.

Hymn: Silent Night (we stand)......111

#### **Closing Prayer of Benediction**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our hearts with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**  May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen**.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give us his peace and favor. Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.** 

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.** 

As we leave, we deposit our candles at the rear of the nave.

This week we see four back-to-back feast days following tonight's worship: (1) Christmas, of course, or the Feast of the Nativity; (2) St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; (3) St John, Apostle and Evangelist, and (4) the Holy Innocents. Were they not grouped so closely, each of those three "other" feasts would deserve its own description here. Each has its own story and its own hero(es). We invite you to research them at your leisure.

This coming Sunday we will have a Christmas Carol Singing service in the nave. We will sing, pray, and hear God's word together as we celebrate the last Sunday of the calendar year. The following Sunday, January 5, 2020, will be our Epiphany celebration and Annual Meeting. After worship, we will gather in the Little House for a pot luck lunch (Jimmy Weldon will bring a ham), hear our progress during the year, and elect two new vestry members to serve during 2020.

| Serving at Epiphany tonight:          | And next Sunday, December 29: |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ushers: Mike Rallo and Maurice McCord | Ushers: Pam and Eddie Harper  |
| Altar Guild: Lee Borden               | Altar Guild: Suzy Wilson      |
| Lay Reader: Betty Weldon              | Lay Reader: Lavonne           |
| Lay Eucharistic Lavonne Hart          | Refreshments: Kay Dickey      |
| Refreshments: Everyone                |                               |