

For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Christmas Eve
Liturgy of the Word with
Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament
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.**

Angels We Have Heard On High.....96

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.

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

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, Dezel 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

Presentation: *O Come, All Ye Faithful (we stand)*83:1

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 then 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.**

Hymn: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*.....99

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:

Ushers: Mike Rallo and Maurice McCord
Altar Guild: Lee Borden
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon
Lay Eucharistic Lavonne Hart
Refreshments: Everyone

And next Sunday, December 29:

Ushers: Pam and Eddie Harper
Altar Guild: Suzy Wilson
Lay Reader: Lavonne
Refreshments: Kay Dickey