

Great is the mystery of faith:

The Celebrant and People say,

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with John and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

The Celebrant and People say

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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.

Fraction Anthem

The Celebrant continues

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.

Please join us at God's table.

The Postcommunion Prayer

After Communion the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



THE HOLY EUCHARIST
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
December 25, 2021 - 10 a.m.

A joyous and warm welcome to our visitors and guests. Please know how happy our Cathedral community is to have you worship with us. We'd love to know our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as you leave. Thank you for silencing your cell phone.

Masks are optional as we are following the most recent CDC guidelines. Your safety is important to us.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People Forever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant and People

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 Celebrant and the People sing together

The Collect of the Day

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

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The People are seated.

The Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

A period of silence for reflection follows the reading.

Music and lyrics printed in this bulletin are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-738926. All rights reserved.

The Psalm is read in unison.

Psalm 98

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A period of silence for reflection follows the reading.

The People stand.

The Gospel Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.
The People are seated.

The Sermon The Reverend Gerald G. Alexander

A period of silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The People stand.

The Nicene Creed

The Celebrant and People say

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

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

We pray for God's people throughout the world. For all who suffer from the coronavirus and its effects. For the sick, the hungry and those who have no home. Pray for all those in need, especially those affected by tornadoes in Kentucky.

Silence

We pray for the city of Jacksonville and for this Cathedral district here in the heart of the urban core. Pray that we may bring new life to downtown Jacksonville and serve those in need.

Silence

We pray for the nations of the earth, especially Afghanistan, Belarus, Haiti, Somalia, and all nations torn by war, injustice and oppression. Pray for peace.

Silence

We pray for this beautiful earth that You have given us. Pray that we may cherish and care for this planet.

Silence

We pray for all who have died, that they may be welcomed into your loving embrace. Pray for those we love but see no longer.

Silence

Praise God for the gift of Christ's birth, for the gift of our lives and for all the people we love.

Silence

The Celebrant concludes with a prayer.

The Confession of Sin

The People kneel. The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Celebrant continues

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.* 3

The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Clergy and People greet each other in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of money, and other gifts. You may also text jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving, from the Prayer Book of the Church of England

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People 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.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

The Celebrant and People say

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. The Celebrant continues

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord! As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.