The Eve of the Nativity



December 24, 2021
Four O'clock in the Afternoon

St. John's Cathedral Jacksonville, Florida

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY

Welcome to Saint John's Cathedral! We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God. This bulletin contains the entire service and music. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you will worship with us again soon! Blessings to you in this Holy Season.

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

The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, Dean The Reverend Gerald G. Alexander The Reverend Deacon Saundra Kidd Canon for Music: Timothy Tuller

THE WORD OF GOD

Music Before the Service

Christmas Fantasy Glynda Newton, violin

Sigurd M. Øgaard

The People remain seated. The candles are lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.

The People stand.

In Procession

"O come, all ye faithful" (Stanzas 1-3)

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father; Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; Refrain

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

The Celebrant and People say

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born 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.

The Psalm is read in unison.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; * sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

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

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.

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."

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.

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

The People stand.

The Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended

from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

Homily

The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead

The Prayers of the People

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.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Merry Christmas and a warm welcome to our visitors and guests today. Please know how happy we are to have you worship with us. We would love to welcome our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as it comes by. God's blessings for a merry Christmas. We hope you will come again!

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Representatives of the congregation collect the offerings of the People.

The Offertory Pastoral Symp

Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel

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 People stand and sing.

"Hark! The herald angels sing"

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem! Refrain

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

The Great Thanksgiving

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

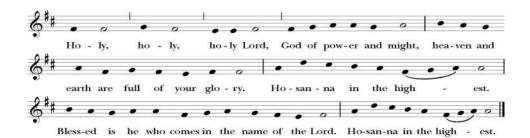
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Celebrant and People



The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

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 5 sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

All baptized persons are welcome to share in the banquet of the Lord's table. Kneel or stand at the rail and receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your outstretched hands. Receive the wine which follows either by drinking from the common cup extended to you, or by retaining the wafer, to either dip the wafer lightly into the cup for yourself, or leave it on your palm for the Chalice Bearer to dip and place on your tongue. If you are not receiving, you may cross your arms over your chest to receive a prayer blessing. Gluten-free communion bread is available. Please let the priest know of your need.

Music at Communion

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he

lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

"Away in a Manger"

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

"Silent night, holy night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Stille Nacht

Luther's Carol

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

The People kneel. The Celebrant and People say

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

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. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

In Procession,

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come"

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

The Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Concluding Voluntary

I Saw Three Ships

Richard Elliott



Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem is over...our Savior is born and lies in a manger. The shepherds have listened to the angel and hurried to see the babe in swaddling cloths.

The Wise Men travel on, led by a star.

Two ways to meet our Lord—drop everything and believe or with quiet study and longing, find the way.

The journey to Bethlehem is complete, but the story is only beginning...

Christmas Slowers Given to the Glory of God and in Roving Memory of

Bud Staggs by Kristin Douberly

Terry Lisa Jamerson Hunt by Lewis Hunt

Vivian June De Long by Michele Holt

Patty Waidner by Beth Kirwan

Sally Noll by Robert Bailey

James and Bobbye Bailey by Robert Bailey

Amy Caroline Purcell and Barbara Jennison by Nancy Purcell

Arthur J. Vaughn by Patrick Kimball

Helen Scribner Euston by Gregory Euston

Amelia Shields DeMuth, Bayard Shields Benoit, Carl Robertson Kurtz, Jr., Bayard Shields Ferber,

Amelia K Ferber, Paul L. Ferber, and other members of the Shields Family by Paul S. Ferber

Edith & Clarence Osborn and Norman and Lane Osborn by Marsh Hohimer

George Dorion by Dorothy Dorion

Carol & Ray Wetzel by Linda Crofton

Marie Sefton by John Sefton

Shirley P. Bush by Richard Bush

Don Neifert by Jacqueline Neifert

Paul & Clara Hafner, Janet K. Collins and Richard Marty by Ron Hafner

Kathi Chalk by Vonciel Gore

Ty Wood

Allison Jennings by David and Jackie Busse

Roy & Yvonne Messerschmidt

Lou & Virginia Kennitz

Michael A. Spruill

Col. Jim & Adele Higgins

Lillian & William Armsby by Sylvia Armsby

Elaine Sandifer by Debbie and Hans Tanzler

Edith Hulsey, Fletcher R. Shurly, Mary Laverne Watts and Calvin Watts by Robin and Marilyn Hyde

Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Hazlehurst by Debbie and Hans Tanzler

Maxine Hoyte and Sherone Hoyte by Velda Browne

Arthur Hall by Jennifer and Tommy Donahoo

Our mothers by Linda and Garfield Rosengren

Ken Alvarex by Alexa Alvarez

Gary F. Keys, Sr. by Beverly Keys

Tate Wilkinson and Minnie Masters by Chet Wilkinson and George Masters

Mark Gillis

Christmas Slowers Given to the Glory of God and in Chanksgiving for

Sharon Staggs by Kristin Douberly

St. John's Cathedral Clergy and Staff by Beth and Michael Kirwan

Robbye Rowland by Robert Bailey

Michael, Jennifer and Matthew Purcell by Nancy Purcell

All of the Ushers at St. John's Cathedral by Patrick Kimball

Our children Mattie, Spencer, Flora Grace and Beck Sacks by Meg and Jon Sacks

Tim Tuller and the Cathedral Choir by Ron Hafner

The health of our family by Tom and Sheila Burrell