



LOVE *at the* CORE.

The Eve of the Nativity

December 24, 2023 4 p.m.



✻ THE HOLY EUCHARIST ✻

Music Before the Service

Christmas Fantasy, Sigurd M. Ogaard
Glynda Newton, violin

At the sound of the bell, all stand.

In Procession, Hymn 83 (*Stanzas 1-3*)

“O come, all ye faithful”
Adeste fideles

✻ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ✻

Celebrant Blessed be God.

People Forever and 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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the Prophet 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

All **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 Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

All sit.

The Sermon

The Rev. Mark S. Anderson

A period of silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

All 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

Leader We pray for God's people throughout the world. For the sick, the hungry and those who have no home.

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 the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Congo, 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 the prayers. All remain standing or kneel as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Greet one another with the peace of Jesus.

Welcome and Announcements



As the altar is prepared for Communion, please place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed. You may also give by texting jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. Or use the QR code to give online. Thank you for your generosity.

∞ THE HOLY COMMUNION ∞

The Offertory

Pastoral Symphony (from *Messiah*)
G. F. Handel

Hymn 87

“Hark the herald angels sing”
Mendelssohn

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

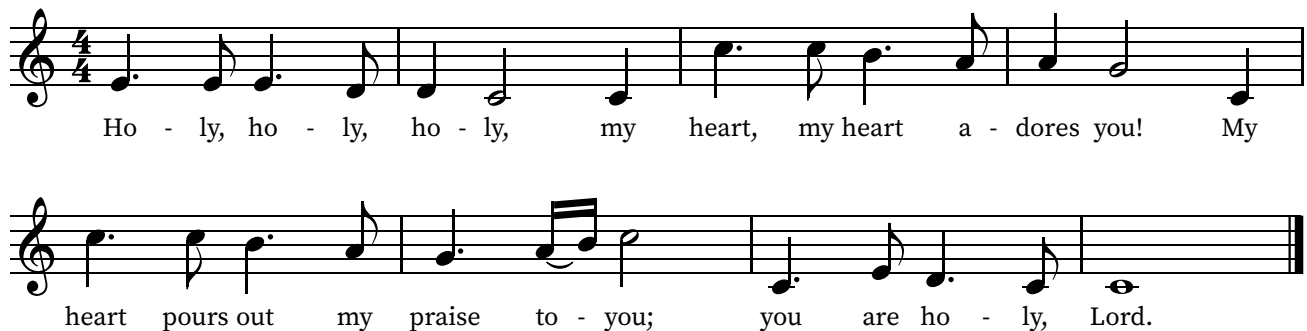
Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

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:

Sanctus *(Sung three times)*

Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart
WLP 785



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
heart pours out my praise to - you; you are ho - ly, Lord.

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant 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:

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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.

Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

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

Celebrant 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 people are welcome to receive communion. Please let clergy know if you would like a gluten free wafer. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by folding your arms across your chest. If you like to receive communion and are unable to come to the altar, please ask an usher for assistance. You are also invited to receive prayers in our chapel to the left of the altar.

Music at Communion

Hymn 101, "Away in a manger"
Luther's Carol

Hymn 111, "Silent night, holy night"
Stille Natch

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

Blessing

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty be upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

All stand.

In Procession, Hymn 100

"Joy to the world"
Antioch

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary

Fanfare on *In Dulci Jubilo*, Don Michael Dicie

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We invite you to return to St. John's Cathedral soon.
Christmas Day
10 a.m.*

New Year's Eve
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
5 p.m.

Champagne Reception following in Taliaferro Hall

Every Sunday we worship at
8 & 10 a.m.



Poinsettias at the Christmas Altar

are given in thanksgiving for

The Cathedral Clergy and Staff
Marie Tarver, Anice Brown, Debbie Scroggins, and Corey Tandy

The Cathedral Choir

Tim Tuller and his gift of music

Lorraine Lewis Corey

The Doiron's Children and their families:

Leslie, Roger & Margo Clark and Laura, Kenny, Savannah & James Kwaak

Pam & David Searcy's Children: Paige & John

Pam & David Searcy's parents: Nina & John



*Poinsettias at the
Christmas Altar*

are given in loving memory of

Lillian & William Armsby	Andy Lavender
Sophia & Jim Bolling	Edward & Dorothy Lee
David Burrell	John Leonard
Tom Burrell	Jan Lott
Dick Bush	Nancy C. Mason
Isabella Carrington	Harry T. Mason
Jean Carrington Cook	Stephen C. Mason
Olive Smith Cook	Clarence & Edith Osborn
Thomas Corey, Jr.	Oliver & Evelyn Oswalt
Melvin & Fay Doiron	Ron Pinkerton
George Dorion	Robby Pinkerton
Todd Fischer	Artis & Bertha Pinkerton
Cecil B. Fisher	Eugene & Joyce Schrader
Diane Friedman	Cynthia Searcy
The people we have lost	Marie Sefton
Betty & Curly Gordon	Wilmer Sefton
Tayloe & Ed Graves	Edith Hulsey Shurley
Larry & Mabrine Griswold	Fletcher R. Shurley
Bruce Hardman	Douglas Tandy
James & Marzelle Harmon	Hannella Tandy
Dorothy Hausman	Terrence Tandy
Ted Hausman, Sr.	Janice Beckwith-Tandy
Col. Jim & Adele Higgins	Rolf Towe
Curtis Hill	Terri Bachara Tucker
Terry Hunt	Patty Waidner
Enrique Iguina	Calvin T. Watts
Sandy Jackson	Mary Laverne Watts
Bobby Jackson	Alfred "Sis" Williams
Carol Jennings	George "Sue" Williams
Douglas Jennings	Kate Willis
John Jordan	Jack Willis
Jimmy Judge	Wanda Willis
Jean F. Kasten	Fred & Jean Wilson
Sue & Keith Kirwan	James Horner Winston
Diana Kovarik	

∞ INFORMATION ∞

FOR VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

Welcome! We're glad you've joined us today. To learn more about membership, baptism, confirmation or to receive emails about upcoming events, fill out a connection card found in the pew and hand it to an usher or clergy. Or, visit jaxcathedral.org/welcome and fill out a card online.

HAKIMIAN NURSERY

Our nursery is staffed with trained caregivers for infants and toddlers up to 3 years old every Sunday from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Christian formation for ages 4 through 12th grade is offered at 10 a.m. All are invited to meet in the back of the church to process behind the choir down the aisle and out to their various classrooms. We join the 10 a.m. service at the time of The Peace.

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER

The prayer line is always open. Please let us know what you need and how we can pray for you. Many parishioners appreciate our clergy being with them prior to surgery. If you are having a medical procedure and would like pre-op prayers, please call the church office (904) 356-5507.

If you are calling after hours, press 4, and your call will be routed to a member of the clergy. You may also choose the prayer request option under "Contact" on our website for a quick and confidential response.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE & GIFT SHOP

Hours: Sunday - 9 a.m. to Noon
Monday - Thursday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CONTACT US

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For the latest news and events at the Cathedral, visit our website (jaxcathedral.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@jaxcathedral). On the website, you may subscribe to our newsletter.

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