

Christmas Eve

A Service for Families and Children



5:00 p.m. - 24 December A.D. 2017

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
205 South Summit Ave. · Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
Phone: 301.948.0122 www.ascensionmd.org

Prelude

Hymnal 1982 #83, vs. 1-3

O come, all ye faithful

Opening Prayer

Let us love God with our hearts
People: and our neighbors as ourselves.
Let us love God with our minds.
People: and our neighbors as ourselves
Let us love God with our strength
People: and our neighbors as ourselves.

Lift Every Voice and Sing #27

Away in a manger

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close by me for

1. Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked
2. Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes, I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
3. ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

1. down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
2. down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

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

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. All went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest-room. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

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

Christmas Story

A Creed (*sing twice*)

**We believe in God the Creator
 We believe in Jesus the Son
 We believe in God, Holy Spirit,
 With us 'til our journey is done.**

Prayer Time

We thank God for what we have and ask God for what we want.

The Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

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

Offertory

While the altar table is prepared, we pass the offering plates and sing.

Hymnal 1982 #79

O little town of Bethlehem

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

People: **God's Spirit is with us,**
Lift up your hearts.

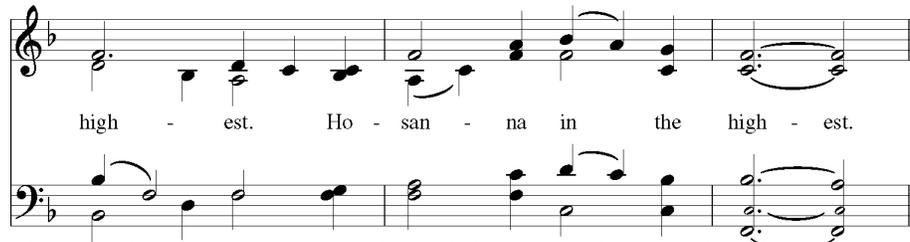
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is good for us to always give thanks to you, Lord God, creator of heaven and earth. So we praise you, singing with all the angels of heaven this hymn to you:

After the preface, all sing together.

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the". The score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.



On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his friends together to share a meal. Before they ate, he lifted up the bread and wine to God and gave thanks. He thanked God for making the wheat for the bread and the grapes for the wine. After he gave thanks for the bread and the wine, Jesus took the bread and broke it into pieces—one piece for each of his friends.

Then Jesus gave the bread to his friends, and when he did he said, “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” Jesus wanted his friends to remember him whenever they ate bread together.

Next Jesus shared the cup of wine with his friends. He said to them, “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.” Jesus also wanted his friends to remember him when they drank wine together.

That night at Jesus’ last meal before he died, he asked his friends to remember him. Today, we also remember Jesus as we share bread and wine together. We remember Jesus died on the cross and we also remember he rose from the grave.

We remember this mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

At dinner that night Jesus made a promise to his friends. He said, “I will never leave you alone. I will send God’s Holy Spirit to fill your hearts and your minds.” Jesus makes that same promise to us today. Jesus helps us and is with us in everything we do and everywhere we go.

So, today, we ask the Holy Spirit of God to touch this bread, this cup, and our own hearts so we may remember Jesus just as his friends did at that dinner long ago. Blessed Trinity, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, we give you praise and glory now and forever. **AMEN.**

The prayer finishes with the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
holy is your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us
as we forgive others.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Silence is kept as the priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive, cross your hands over your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to learn more about baptism, please speak to one of the clergy. After receiving the bread and wine, or a blessing, you may return to your seat.

The Prayer After Communion

We thank you, Lord, for this life.
We thank you for this holy food.
Strengthen us for your service.
And be with us always. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Priest: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us today and remain with us always.

Hymnal 1982 #100, vs. 1-2

Joy to the world!

Postlude

The Dismissal

Priest or Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.



ORGAN/PIANO: Clarice Snyder

*Donors of Christmas Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones,
may pick up a booklet on the table in the hallway.*

Leadership at Ascension

Clergy

The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*
The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*

Musicians

Clarice Snyder, *Interim Organist and Choir Director*
Karina Gomez McCarty, *Interim Ensemble Accompanist*
The Ascension Choir
The 11:15 Ensemble

Wardens

Betsy Hasegawa, *Senior Warden*
Janet King, *Junior Warden*

Vestry

2018: Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin, Berenice Rodriguez
2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron

Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

Ministry Area Leaders

Megan Didavi, *Christian Formation for Children*
Angie Hight-Walker, *Christian Formation for Youth*
Ted Bedell, *Facilities*
Howard Holland, *Finance*
Paul Boynton, *Mission*
Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Pastoral Care*
Jean Cohn, *Personnel*
Carleton MacDonald, *Worship*

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Kristen Keating, Carleton MacDonald, Sue Snay
Alternate: Mardia Dennis

Staff

Lin Keene, *Parish Administrator*
Eleni Hailu, *Media Specialist*
Brenda Alvarez, *Nursery Attendant*



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