



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25, 2019

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Welcome to Ascension!

For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from a member of the Welcome Team or the table in the narthex.

Please silence your audible devices.

Beginning ten minutes before the service, please help us create a contemplative space by refraining from cell phone use or loud conversation.

*Within the service, the people read the parts in **bold print**.*

Worship Leaders:

Readers:

Marcia Noble, Mardia Dennis and Gordon Donnelly

Welcome Team:

Dorett Sutherland, Tunde Ayinde and Arturo Rodriguez

Acolyte:

Isabella Rincon-Noble

Chalicer:

Wadai Dennis

The Entrance Rite

Opening Voluntary:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

arr. Mark Hayes

The people stand and remain standing through the Collect of the Day.

Processional Hymn:

Sung by all.

"Once in royal David's city"

1982 Hymnal # 102

Irby

Opening Acclamation

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Priest 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.

Gloria in excelsis

Sung by all.

"Glory to God in the highest"

1985 Hymnal # S 278

William Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect for the Day

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

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 sit.

The Word of God

The First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.** 🕊

Psalm 97 (Read responsively.)

The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him
and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods!
Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
**he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous,
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Reader A reading from the letter of the apostle St. Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.** 🕊

The people stand and remain standing through the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn

Sung by all.

"Hark! The herald angels sing"

1982 Hymnal # 87

Mendelssohn

First two verses are sung before the Gospel; last verse is sung after the Gospel.

The Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

*Gospeller
People*

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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.

*Gospeller
People*

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

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Sermon

The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mariann and Chilton, our Bishops, and Javier, Nan and Eugene, our clergy.
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We pray for comfort, healing, courage, and hope for **John** Walker, **Rebecca** Pittman, **Samuel** Tellu, **Sciou** Broderick, **Marcia** Noble, **Eduardo** Rincon, **Warren** Porter, **Jim** Wilson, **Tim** Anderson, **Leslie** Sanya, **Sue** Jenkins, **Olive** Rivera, **Wadai** Dennis, **Judy** Conroy, **Doris** Chin, **Jean** Cohn, **Lee** Silverman, **Johnetta** Mars-Gibson, **Clint** Miller, **Neville** Barr, **Phyllis** Kramer, **Calysa** Crawford and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as those on our extended healing prayer list.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

All say the prayer for Ascension:

God of all, we offer thanks to you for this our parish, Church of the Ascension, as we gather here together in your name. Bless us with remembrance of those who founded this parish, erected the walls, and provided the space we have today. We pray that we may continue their work with perseverance and faithfulness to become a truly One Ascension for this community. We pray for strength, steadfastness, and vision for Padre Javier on his journey as our Priest in Charge. Guide us as we walk the way with him. We pray that the path we take together and the light that shows us the way are your own. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Presider Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant 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 and are then seated.

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem

Sung by the choir

“Alfred Burt Carol Medley”

arr. Mark Hayes

Hymn at the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

“Good Christian friends, rejoice!”

1982 Hymnal # 107

In dulci jubilo

The Holy Communion

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.**

Celebrant

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

sung by all

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

1982 Hymnal # S 125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel or stand; 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 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread; a period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

“Taste and see”

Wonder, Love, and Praise # 764

James E. Moore, Jr.

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The people sit.

Administration of the Sacrament: All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to a communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please cross your arms on your chest – this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed. If you need communion brought to you, please let a member of the Welcome Team know. Healing Prayers: If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitor

When at this service

Celebrant We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

Prayer after Communion

The people kneel.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

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. Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

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

The people stand.

Recessional Hymn

Sung by all.

"Go, tell it on the mountain" **1982 Hymnal # 99**

Go tell it on the mountain

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Closing Voluntary:

Holiday Medley

arr. Mark Hayes

Christmas Flowers

The Christmas flowers were given by:

Mary and Jack Rouse *in honor of their grandchildren Andrew and Claire Rouse*
Peg Ruppel *in honor of the Ruppel Family*
Johnetta Mars-Gibson *in honor of her grandmom Leona Chesson*

Kristin Fitzpatrick *in loving memory of Bryan Fitzpatrick*
Alfredia Freeman Black *in loving memory of the Black & Watkins families*
Ed and Helen Neal *in loving memory of Jane & Horace Neal; Mary Capari and Constantine Smiy*
Cynthia Perley *in loving memory of Lincoln Perley IV; John & Lucille Cocumelli;*
and Lincoln & Audrey Perley
Nancy Carman *in loving memory of John Carman III; Shirley Thomas;*
William Thomas and Patricia Thomas
Shirley Allen *in loving memory of her uncle Richlieu Ricks, Sr.*
James, Jon & Alfredia Black *in loving memory of James Black Sr.;*
Frances Gooch; and Alfred & Louella Watkins
Esther & Margaret Tellu *in loving memory of Moses & Doris Tellu; Elizabeth, Edmond, Prince, Chuku; uncles,*
aunts, grandparents; Sam, Jr.; Marian and Juliet
Betsy Hasegawa *in loving memory of Helen & Jerry Jenkins and Linda Cates*
Tunde Ayinde *in loving memory of Michael Lynne Lea*
Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer *in loving memory of Glenn, Charles & Alice Pfadenhauer;*
Sophie Dunbar; and Caryl Thomas
Elizabeth Lennon *in loving memory of William & Helen Bradfield*
Peg Donnellon *in loving memory of John, Dot, Mary, Paul & Lori Ahrens*
Don & Marty Marks *in loving memory of the Marks and VanAiken families*
Berenice & Lucelia Rodriguez *in loving memory of Maria Socorro Guzman*
Gwendolyn Wilson *in loving memory of Samuel Gooding; Ngogi, Kelly & Jack*
Anne Brink *in loving memory of her mother Lois Becker*
Alice Nyakabwa Katenta *in loving memory of her father, mother & all Nyakabwa family*

Gloria Nwankwo
Denise & Tom Lionetti
Ron & Jan Hauber
Phyllis Eddy & Joe Deffenbaugh
Stella Escobar & Elizabeth Vergel
Betty Knight
M. Hakimi
Anonymous

PERMISSIONS: Section: Canticles Title: Canticle 21, You are God: Te Deum Laudamus Music: Plainsong, Te Deum Tone (Solemn); adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947); acc. Gerard Farrell (b. 1919) Copyright: Melody: © 1985 Bruce E. Ford. Sanctus: Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus Music: From A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Simple Gifts, Joseph Brackett (1797-1822); acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922) Fraction Anthem Section: Eucharist Title: Taste and see Meter: Irr. Words: James E. Moore, Jr., para. of Psalm 34 Music: James E. Moore, Jr. Copyright: © 1992 GIA Publications Inc. : The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two is from the Book of Common Prayer © 1979 Church Publishing Inc.; the Psalm is from the Book of Common Prayer; Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Leadership at Ascension

Clergy

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Priest in Charge*
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand, *Pastoral Associate*
The Rev. Eugene Wright, *Deacon*

Musicians

Andrew Kullberg, *Minister of Music*
Jesse Velazquez, *Spanish Service Musical Director*
The Ascension Choir
The Ensemble

Wardens

Betsy Hasegawa, *Senior Warden*
Zadinga Ogada, *Junior Warden*

Vestry

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
2021: Susan McLaughlin, Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters
2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Ministry Area Leaders

Megan Didavi, *Christian Formation for Children*
Angie Hight-Walker, *Christian Formation for Youth*
Ted Bedell, *Facilities*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Finance*
Paul Boynton, *Mission*
Javier Garcia Ocampo and Nan Hildebrand, *Pastoral Care*
Jean Cohn, *Personnel*
Curt Lindsay and Gary McLaughlin, *Worship*

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Staff

Lin Keene, *Parish Administrator*
Jesse Velazquez, *Communications*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
205 SOUTH SUMMIT AVENUE
GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND 20877-2315
PHONE: 301.948.0122 – FAX: 301.926.9012
ECA@ASCENSIONMD.ORG
WWW.ASCENSIONMD.ORG