

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2024

Prelude with Carols

The Church is dark except for candles that are lit.

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

The priest chants

The Twenty-fifth Day of December. In the five thousand one hundred and ninety-ninth year of the creation of the world from the time when God in the beginning created the heavens and the earth; the two thousand nine hundred and fifty-seventh year after the flood; the two thousand and fifteenth year from the birth of Abraham; the one thousand five hundred and tenth year from Moses and the going forth of the people of Israel from Egypt; the one thousand and thirty-second year from David's being anointed king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, in the sixth age of the world, Jesus Christ the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary, being made flesh. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Procession to the Christmas Crèche

#83 O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3)

The congregation will pause their singing after verse 3. The priest goes to the crèche with an acolyte and holy water and says the following:

Blessing the Crèche

Priest The word was made flesh and dwelt among us
People **And we beheld his glory.**

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: +Bless we pray this creche, that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Water is sprinkled on the Crèche. Singing resumes and the procession moves to the Chancel.

Hymn #83

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 4-6)

Adeste Fidelis

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**



Collect for Purity

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.**

Hymn #96, Angels We Have Heard On High

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, on God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

9:2-7

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**

Psalm 96 (*sung by the choir*)

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- ⁶ Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- ¹⁰ 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."
- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- ¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from the Book of Titus

2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: #109 The First Nowell

The Gospel of Luke

2:1-20

Presider 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Fr. Frank

The Nicene Creed

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

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, **grant us your peace.**"

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil. We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Bishop Jennifer, Bishop Mauricio and the Diocese of Brasilia, for Frank, our priest and Joan and Randy, our Wardens. We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation. We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

May all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

Summon the people of all cities and towns to yourself. May all the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence. We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

Grant your healing grace to all those in need of love. Today we pray for **Justin, Kaitlyn, Taylor, Marjorie, Emma, Marilyn, Mollie, Abby, Larry, Amanda, Roger, Eva Mae, Troy, Alan, Jan, Jim, Cecelia, Roger, Damon, Sonia, Jon, Jane, Kevin, Papa Ed, Judy, Cheryl, Mark, Ian, Katy, Keith, Bernie, Emma, Margaret, Denise, Adolfo and Doris.** Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. *(Please add your own prayers in silence or by naming aloud those for whom you wish to pray).* We pray, **Grant us your peace.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Music I: Fum, Fum, Fum (*bells and choir*)

Spanish Carol

Offertory Music II: O Come, All Ye Faithful (*bell choir*)

Presentation Hymn: 380, stanza 3 *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

Sanctus

S-125

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. Then the Presider 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,
Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider 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 Matthew and 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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

S-163

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Communion Anthem I: O. Ye Joyful People (*choir*)

Communion Anthem II: O Holy Night
Johnson

A. Adam, arr.

This table is for everyone. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive Holy Communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to offer you a blessing. If you wish to have Holy Communion brought to your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please let one of the Ushers know.

Candle Lighting

Hymn 111

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Votive candles are lit. The choir and the congregation hums the melody while The Prologue of the Gospel of John is read

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become the children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

After the reading, the congregation sings the hymn, Silent Night

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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

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 for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #87 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Birthday of a King

W. Howard Neidlinger