



Welcome to SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

December 25, 2023 at 9 AM

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

+ --Appropriate place to make the "Sign of the cross"
BCP—The "Black" Book of Common Prayer
Hymnal—The "Red" Hymnal 1982
LEVAS—Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal (Episcopal)
WLP—Music from Wonder, Love, and Praise Hymnal (Episcopal)
VF—Voices Found Hymnal (Episcopal)
*—A Parishioner's Favorite Hymn Pick
Please silence all cell phones

Notes on this Morning's Service

Welcome to Saint Mark's! Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We welcome people of every race and tongue and faith to this celebration. We invite you to participate fully and to join us in rejoicing at the birth of the one who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths. Luke describes Jesus' birth with the song of angels and the shepherds who were the first to learn of that birth and the first to come to see the infant. In those days shepherds were a despised group rejected by most people. Luke's inclusion of them in the story stresses that God has come for all people, high and low, rich and poor. Centuries earlier, Isaiah had foreseen the coming of the Messiah as the establishment of God's reign. This event would summon all people into God's Kingdom and make of them "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord." In story, song, word, and sacrament we celebrate the coming of God into the world and renew our own place in the story of God's salvation of all of humanity.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Celebrant + For to us a child is born
People **to us a Son is given.**

The Celebrant and People say the 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH—CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant: **T**o a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, 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...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. (*Isaiah 9:2, 6*)

LEM **T**oday, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

ALL ***We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.***

Celebrant **W**e light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! ***Amen.***

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

ADVENT WREATH HYMN – *Candle of Hope* by The Rev'd Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
LYONS 10.10.11.11 ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

***The Christ candle's light that shines for us here
Tells out the good news that God has come near!
God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,
To show all creation the wealth of God's grace.***

Biblical References: Matthew 24:36-44, Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:68-79; Isaiah 2:4; Luke 1:46b-55; John 3:16-17; Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14; Titus 3:4-7 Tune: Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784; until recently attributed to Johann Michael Haydn ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")
Alternate tune: HANOVER, William Croft, Supplement to the New Version, 1708 ("Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim")
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1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you. Celebrant*

Together, let us pray.

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.*

The people sit.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

(Isaiah 62:6-12)

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 The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

- ¹ The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- ² Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- ³ A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- ⁴ His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- ⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- ⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- ⁹ For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

THE EPISTLE

A Reading from Paul's Letter to Titus.

Titus 3:4-7

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 The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The people stand as they are able.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



THE GOSPEL

Priest 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.

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

Sermon

Fr. Chris Jubinski

+ May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

The people sit.

After the Sermon, the people stand as they are able.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together,

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
+ the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayers of the People *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Celebrant: As we join the angels and shepherds to celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who shines the light of Christ on all creation, saying: Holy God, *be born in us today.*

LEM: For the Church in all places, remembering especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Lawrence, GERALYN, Daniel, and William our bishops, and for Chris our priest. We pray that our worship and praise may give glory to God, and our witness and ministry bring new hope to many. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For this Parish Family, that we, like the angels, may announce the good news of God's saving love and be instruments of peace to all who walk the human journey with us. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For people of faith everywhere, that God's spirit will open new pathways of peace and hope to all who live in danger and fear. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For those who live and work in places of trouble and violence, especially for the people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Armenia, and the United States, that the Prince of Peace will guide all hearts to strive for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For all those who are caring for others this Christmas season, that God will strengthen and protect healthcare workers, public safety and utility workers, and those who care for the poor and vulnerable. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For all who find Christmas difficult, for those whose lives are touched by fear, anxiety, or depression, and for all those in need of our prayers, especially remembering those on our prayer list. (*You are invited to offer up prayers for any need or concern.*) We pray that Christ will bring healing, light, and hope to their hearts. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For all the blessings God has given us, that we may receive them thankfully and rejoice that Christ is born again in our hearts and lives. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

For those who have died, remembering especially Fran Graham, Katherine Wyper, and all those in whose memory the Christmas flowers and decorations are given. (*You are invited to name those you wish to have remembered.*) May they rejoice in the light of God's incarnate Word. Holy God, *be born in us today.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the Mother of Jesus, Joseph, and with all the heavenly host, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. *Glory to you, O Lord our God.*

All: Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May the Rising Sun of Christ spread across the world and brighten all humanity. Glory to God in the Highest and peace among those whom God favors. Amen.

PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

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

Announcements

The people sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Go tell it on the mountain

HYMNAL 99

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

- 1 While shep - herds kept their
- 2 The shep - herds feared and
- 3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by the night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

After the offering is brought forward, all say

All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING—EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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.***

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.

And now we give you thanks because in his earthly childhood you entrusted him to the care of a human family. In Mary and Joseph you give us an example of love and devotion to him, and also a pattern of family life.

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

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 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 Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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—AGNUS DEI

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.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always. Amen.



Communion Norms--We welcome our guests this morning. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You may stand or kneel (whichever you prefer). You are invited to eat the wafer and then drink from the cup. We regret that you are not permitted to intinct (dip the wafer) at this time. The people respond after receiving the bread or the wine by saying "Amen." If you prefer not to receive the cup, please cross your arms over your chest. If you do not want to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing from the priest.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Child is this

HYMNAL 115

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Blessing for the Christmas Season *(Church of England)*

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty: + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the world

HYMNAL 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far - as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, joy, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THE DISMISSAL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

LEM Go in peace. For Christ was born on this day. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!



A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

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Sunday Services

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist in the church (10:00 a.m. Livestreamed)

Thursday Midweek Service

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Fr. Chris' Office

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano—*Bishop of Long Island*

The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf—*Assisting Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. William Franklin—*Assisting Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey—*Assisting Bishop*

The Rev. Christopher D. Jubinski—*Rector*

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Stephen Hunt—*Director of Music*

Kate Gabrielsen—*Parish Administrator*

Chris Adams—*Facilities Manager*

Rosanna Davis—*Director of St. Mark's Bright Beginnings Preschool*

Diane Stewart—*Warden*

Sandy Wyman—*Warden*

Vestry Members:

Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover

Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Marjorie Kulesa,

Ashley Lueck, Barbara Pettus and Steve Turner.

Thomas Simson—*Treasurer*

Carol Fitton—*Clerk of the Vestry*

