

# St. Ambrose Episcopal Church December 24, 2024

Eve of the Nativity

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: Offering by the Star Valley Choir

PROCESSIONAL #83 O Come all Ye Faithful



6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

#### Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

### **Opening Sentences**

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, Amen.

## 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** 





#### **Christmas Eve**

Celebrant: "Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle."

The candles are lit.

The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski (please credit)

Scripture: "Isaiah 9:6 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Prayer: "O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you...

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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, one God, in glory everlasting **Amen** 

#### First Lesson 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 96

#### Cantate Domino

- 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.

#### Second Lesson 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.

Reader. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

## Sequence Hymn #89, It came upon the Midnight Clear, v1-2



#### Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #89 It came upon the Midnight Clear, verse 3

Sermon Reverend Rebecca Goldberg

#### 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.

## The Prayers of the People

#### Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; *That we all may be one.* 

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.* 

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.* 

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; *That our works may find favor in your sight.* 

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; *That they may be delivered from their distress.* 

Give to the departed eternal rest. *Let light perpetual shine upon them.* 

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.* 

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

#### The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

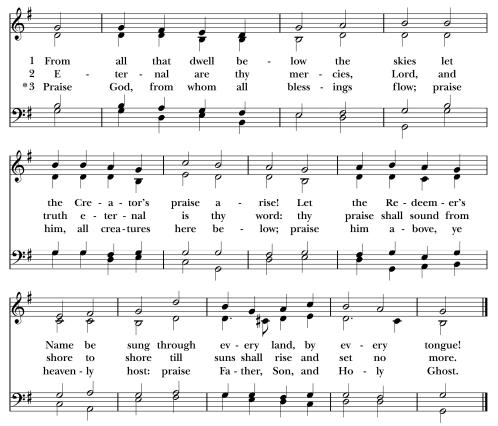
People And also with you.

## Offertory Hymn:

Presentation of St. Ambrose Choir and Children's Choir

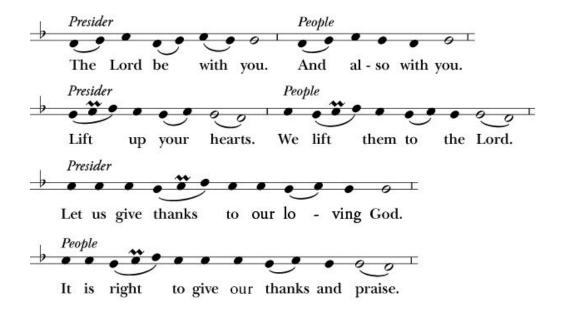
## **Doxology**

Hymn 380 From All That Dwell Below the Skies Verse 3



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

## THE HOLY COMMUNION Eucharistic Prayer B



CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

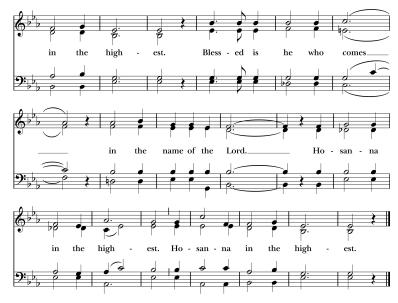
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

#### THE SANCTUS \$130





Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA

#### Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 St. Ambrose and St. Francis, 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 has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## **FRACTION ANTHEM S164**



Music: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications. Inc.

## Invitation

## COMMUNION HYMN #79 O Little Town of Bethlehem



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

#### After Communion:

Everyone will light their candles, the lights will be dimmed, and we will all sing;



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

## Post communion Prayer

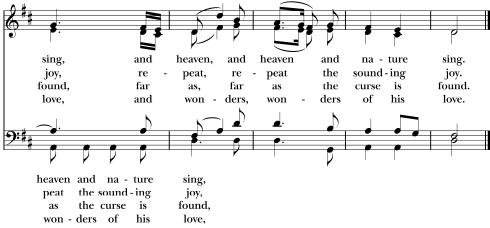
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. The Blessing of God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you always. **Amen** 

## RECESSIONAL #100 Joy to the World





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

#### THE DISMISSAL

## **POSTLUDE** Star Valley Choir

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## Christmas Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and:

In loving memory of Gregory Landon Cozzi from Bettie J. Davis
In loving memory of Myrtle Dellinger from Kyn Dellinger
In thanksgiving from Grant and April Cherrington
In thanksgiving from George and Janet Gardiner
In thanksgiving from David and Cathy McIntyre/Rincon
In thanksgiving from Irene Stead
In thanksgiving from Stephen and Belinda Yuen

#### The Mission of St. Ambrose Church of Foster City

Is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ as we care for each other and our larger community. We worship in the Episcopal and Anglican tradition, extending an open and inclusive invitation to all people, welcoming children into our church family and serving those in need.

#### **Worship Leaders:**

Reverend Rebecca Goldberg Amanda Yuxin Dai, Music Director

#### **Worship Leader Rota:**

Mary Loretta Davila, Lighting Advent Candle & Reading
Intercessor
Mary Loretta Davila, Lectors
Eucharistic Minister
Usher
Alison LeBlanc, Livestream Technician

#### **December 29th Scripture Lessons**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147, Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7 John 1:1-18



We are delighted that you all came to share in this celebration of the coming of Jesus to dwell among us. You are most welcome to worship with us on Sundays. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and joy and peace in the New Year.