



Sherwood Episcopal Church

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December 25, 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

9 am
Morning Prayer, Rite II



Giver of all that is good, we thank you today for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was born into poverty in a hard and cruel time, who gave himself for us, and lives with you in glory.

We thank you for all your friends and prophets, who have gone before us, and those who taught us to celebrate this feast of the Nativity with beloved Scripture, and beloved carols and loud rejoicing; help us to teach those who come after us that Christmas is a holy time, a time to seek reconciliation and peace.

Bless us, Lord, as we seek Christ in the lowly managers of this world, bless us, as we seek to honor the mystery of the Incarnation in our midst, remembering always that you made us, and all humanity, in your divine image.

Help us to gladly welcome today, and all days, Your Wisdom, Your Power, Your Emmanuel, your Prince of Peace.

Prayer from God With Us, pg. 129

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Officiant: Behold, the dwelling God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND THE PSALTER

p. 80, BCP

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen, Alleluia.**

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

VENITE - Psalm 95:1-7, p. 82, BCP

Said in unison

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

PSALM 2, p. 586, BCP

Said in unison

Why are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
"Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.
Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
"I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for
your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

**Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;**

**Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

Happy are all who take refuge in him.

PSALM 85, p. 708, *BCP*

Said in unison

**You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

**You have withdrawn all your fury *
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.**

**Restore us then, O God our Savior; *
let your anger depart from us.**

**Will you be displeased with us for ever? *
will you prolong your anger from age to age?**

**Will you not give us life again, *
that your people may rejoice in you?**

**Show us your mercy, O LORD, *
and grant us your salvation.**

**I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

**Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

**Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON

Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

Reader: Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE 16 The Song of Zechariah

Said in unison

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE SECOND LESSON

John 3:31-36

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

Reader: Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE 18 A Song to the Lamb

Said in unison

**Splendor and honor and kingly power
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is,
and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation,
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne,
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,
for ever and for evermore.**

REFLECTION BY MOTHER NANCY

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing:

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.

THE PRAYERS

The People stand or kneel

Officiant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray ...

Officiant and People:

**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.**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
 V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
 V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
 V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
 V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
 V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
 V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

A COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

There will be a moment of silence so you may offer your prayers and thanksgiving either silently or aloud. We also invite you to share your prayers of thanksgiving in the comments section of our Facebook feed.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we you unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**