THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The NATIVITY of OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
in the Admiral District of West Seattle
The Gathering of God’s People

The liturgical text is an expansive language version of The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer. This updated version was approved for trial use at the Episcopal Church’s 2018 General Convention.

Prelude

Two Organ Noëls

Louis Claude d’Aquín (1694-1722)

Sur les Flûtes (on the flute stops); Grand Jeu et duo (reed stops in duo)

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, Op.28

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

TUNE: Adeste fideles

Omit verses 4 & 5.

Presider

Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People

And blessed be God’s reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider

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 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

TUNE: Regent Square

The Collect of the Day

Christmas

Presider

God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

Let us pray.

People

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

You may be seated.

Reading

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.

Please stand.

**Hymn 100**  
Joy to the world! The Lord is come  
TUNE: Antioch

You may be seated.

**Reading**  
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.

Please stand.

**Hymn 79**  
O little town of Bethlehem  
Verses 1-2.  
TUNE: St. Louis

**Holy Gospel**  
Luke 2:1–20

**Presider**  
The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People**  
Glory to you, O 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 our Savior.

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

**Hymn 79**  
O little town of Bethlehem  
TUNE: St. Louis
Verses 3-5.

**The Sermon, seated**

The Reverend Kate E. Wesch

*A prolonged period of silence and stillness is kept after the sermon. It is indicated by the pealing of bells.*

**The Nicene Creed, standing**

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:

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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**

**Intercessor** With joyous and grateful hearts, we bring petitions to the newborn Savior as we pray, “Hear our prayer.”

*Silence may be kept.*

For Christ’s Church in the world, for all church leaders, including Michael our presiding bishop, Greg, our diocesan bishop, Kate, our priest, and others who serve in this place.

May the people of God be Christ’s incarnated spirit in the world.

Holy Child,

**People** hear our prayer.

**Intercessor** For our nation, that our leaders work together to establish racial equity, end gun violence, and care for the earth.

Holy Child,

**People** hear our prayer.

**Intercessor** For people in areas of the world that are experiencing political upheaval, catastrophic storms, and famine, and for refugees seeking asylum.

Holy Child,

**People** hear our prayer.

**Intercessor** That our local leaders collaborate to solve homelessness, lack of affordable housing, public safety, and other challenges of city life.

Holy Child,

**People** hear our prayer.
Intercessor For those who suffer from illness, addiction, unsafe housing, mental illness, and domestic abuse. For those who are lonely this Christmas season and for those who sleep in doorways at night. May we, the people of God, offer solutions and solace. We lift up to you those requesting our prayers, especially those we now name either silently or aloud _____.

Silence may be kept.

People hear our prayer.

Intercessor We give thanks for our many blessings, for the birth of our Savior, for our families and friends, for the laughter of children, for shared meals, and for personal thanksgivings, especially those we now name either silently or aloud _____.

Silence may be kept.

People hear our prayer.

Intercessor For the dying, and those who have died, that they may have eternal rest, and for those who grieve, that they may find comfort, especially those we now name either silently or aloud _____.

Silence may be kept.

People hear our prayer.

Presider Holy Child of Bethlehem, we, your people, come before you with our joys, worries, and fears. Accept our prayers and strengthen us in our daily life. We ask this in your name. Amen.

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The ministers and people greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Liturgy of the Table

Your offerings tonight support Books and Bricks Global, an international ministry serving students and teachers in rural Kenya. This outreach organization grew out of a ministry founded at St. John’s in 2004. To learn more about this ministry go to: www.booksandbricks.org.

Offertory Sentence

Presider Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. — 1 Chronicles 20:11

The congregation’s offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. The gifts of bread, wine, and money are placed on the Holy Table.

Please stand.

Hymn 102 Once in royal David’s city TUNE: Irby
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 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, sung by all

Presider

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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,

All We remember Christ’s death,
We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,
We await Christ’s coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord’s Prayer, sung by all
Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem, sung by all

Prayer

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

TUNE: Greensleeves

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ’s Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.
Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding your hands palms down initially. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 89  It came upon the midnight clear  TUNE: Carol
Hymn 109 The first Nowell the angels did say  TUNE: The First Nowell
Candle Lighting

When the light is brought to you, please **tip your unlit candle into the flame** to light your candle.

**Hymn 111** Silent night, holy night

Sung kneeling as able.

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Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Tune: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
   Round yon virgin mother and child.

2 Silent night, holy night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heav'n a-far,
   Heav'n hosts... sing, Alleluia!

3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
   Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Sleep in heav'n-ly peace, Sleep in heav'n-ly peace.
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.
Postcommunion Prayer, standing

Presider  Let us pray.
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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider 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.

Hymn 87  Hark! the herald angels sing

TUNE: Mendelssohn

Dismissal

Presider  Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People  Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude  Noël Suisse: Il est un petit L’ange (“He is a little angel”)  Louis-Claude d’Aquín (1694-1772)