THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2020

10:00 pm

Welcome in the Name of the Lord

We're glad you are here! If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to the clergy after the service, and fill out one of the response cards at the Information Table. We would like to get to know you.

About Communion

All baptized Christians who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to the Communion table. Scripture assures us that God forgives and welcomes all who come to him in repentance and faith (1 John 1:19).

To receive communion, stand and hold out your hands, palms up, one hand over the other. The sealed bread and wine will be placed in your hand. Please move down the altar rail as indicated, first take the bread, then take the wine, and place the chalice in the receptacle provided.

Children are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer, they may receive a blessing rather than communion.

To receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

This booklet faithfully follows the order for the Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Prelude **Pastoral** *Handel*

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

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.**

The Collect for Christmas

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
All 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 Lessons

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 Cantate Domino BCP 727

All say

**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.**

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

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 The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The 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**

The Sermon The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Tusken, Rector

All stand
The Apostles' Creed BCP p. 96

All say **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 of the People BCP p. 387

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

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

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

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

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

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

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

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

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

The celebrant concludes

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The Confession BCP p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

People **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.**

The Priest stands and says

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.
Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

BCP p. 361

Offertory **See Amid the Winter's Snow** *arr. Forrest*

Alleluia. Alleluia.

See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

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.

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:

The Sanctus

All say **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 Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 pray:

The Lord's Prayer BCP p. 364

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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

The celebrant continues

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and Wine are given to the communicants with these words

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Communion Music

Instrumental **Carols** *String Quartet*

Celebrant and People

Post-communion Prayer BCP p. 365

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 people remain seated while the candles are lit.

Carol 111 Silent night, holy night *Stille Nacht*

Verse 1 Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3 Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

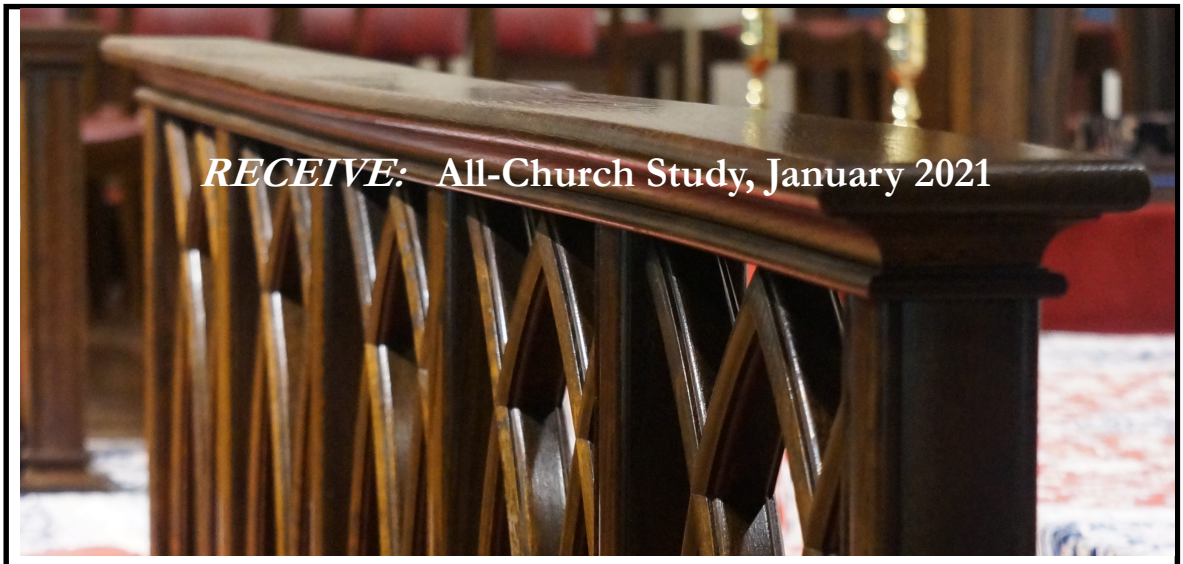
The Christmas Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude **Rejoice Greatly** *Handel*

Musicians Ashley Fitzwater, Christine Wiest, Violins;
Lynn Slater, Viola; Jon Wiest, Cello;
Kate Peeler, Soprano; Sue Steele, Alto;
Ricky Rivera, Tenor; Theo Farrell, Bass
Dr. Lance Peeler, Organist



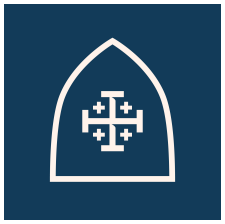
Beginning Jan 6, for a third consecutive year, Saint Mark's will journey together from Epiphany to Holy Week by connecting, through the lectionary readings, three vital environments for our parish:

- Weekly Eucharistic Services
- Cornerstone Groups
- 5-Minute Daily Devotions

This year's study is entitled ***RECEIVE*** and will provide a great opportunity to test-drive a Cornerstone Group (our small groups). Check out the church website for more information on groups.

Books available in the narthex ($5 suggested donation) and online.

Cover art: *St. Mark's Doors*, St. Mark's Chapel, Geneva, IL
Photography by Kevin Mead



St. Mark's Church

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Who We Are

We are a Christian community that worships God in the Anglican tradition,
engages the historic teaching of the church,
and participates in Christ's mission.

The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Tusken	Rector
The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler	Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Marcus Johnson	Associate Rector

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II Online Worship Available
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II Online Worship Available

Curbside and Home Delivery of Communion available 8:00-11:00 am
(Online Sign up for Home Delivery required by 5:00 pm Saturday)

Saturday

7:30 am	Morning Prayer (Chapel)

The Christmas Flowers are given to the Glory of God by:

Rickie Banker, in loving memory of Ed and John Banker

Margo Dillon, in loving memory of Tom, Mom, Dad, Mimi, and Bob

Marilyn Franklin, in loving memory of her husband, Richard Franklin

Eric Obremski & Carrie Laskowski, in loving memory of Shirley Obremski

Punky Rawson, in loving memory of her husband W. Leigh Rawson

Alan & Donna Shackleton, in loving memory of Gordon Shackleton
and John & Lori Guddendorf

Gary & Mary Ann Smith, in loving memory of Matthew Smith,
Arthur & Barbara Smith, and John & Ann Paské,
in thanksgiving for their children & grandchildren, their church family,
and all the blessings received