

# The Holy Eucharist



## The Church of the Ascension *Munich*

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

12.00 p.m.

<http://www.ascension-munich.org/>

Seybothstrasse 4, 81545 Munich

*The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion*

The Reverend Daniel R. Morrow    *revdanmorrow@gmail.com*  
*Priest-in-Charge*

The Reverend Canon Dr. Alison J. Gray    *revaligray@ascension-munich.com*  
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Lloyd Denton  
Roger Houghton

Amy Jordan  
Shema Paul  
Lena Petri

Maria Ramadori-  
Volker  
Laura Smith  
Joachim Zeller

*Members of the Vestry*

Patrick Kana    *Sexton*  
Julia Gaspar    *Parish Administrator*

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**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Reverend Daniel R. Morrow, *Celebrant*

Nathaniel Anene    □    Charlotte Rieger    □    Martin Schaeffer  
*Acolytes*

Tonda Kemmerling    □    Aileen Klarmann  
*Altar Guild*

Sue Knowles    □    Joy Schindel  
*Ushers*

David Case  
*Organist*

Paul T. Pilgram  
*Bell Ringer*

Donald Adewale  
*Intercessor*

George Battrick    □    Steve Knowles    □    Matthew Eeda (in church)

Carol Adeney (online)  
*Tech Team*

David Case    □    Sue Knowles (back-up)  
*Key Duty*

# The Holy Eucharist

Gathered and Livestream

Christmas Eve

ORDER OF SERVICE

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*A warm welcome to all!*

***Please keep your microphones muted on Zoom  
for the duration of this service.***

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The Ringing of the Bells

PIANO PRELUDE

*All are invited to stand*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw to night to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People* Glory to God for ever and ever.

*The Celebrant and People together*

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 Savior. Amen

**Song of Praise | Angels We Have Heard On High**

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 - - - - -

## The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born 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 forever. **Amen.**

*All are invited to be seated*

## The Lessons

The First Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7

*Read by Carmen Bleicher*

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

*Read by Sue Morris*

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.

**The Second Reading** | Titus 2:11-14

*Read by Sue Morris*

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

**Gospel Hymn** | *O little town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The Gospel | Luke 2:1-20

*Celebrant* 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.

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

### **The Sermon**

*The Reverend Daniel R. Morrow*

*Silence may be kept.*

#### **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

*Led by Donald Adewale*

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth. Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities. Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer. your gift of wholeness and peace. We pray especially for\_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,

**hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives with your peace. Amen.**

### General Confession and Absolution

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

*Silence*

*The Celebrant and People together*

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.

*Celebrant*

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.

### Welcome and Announcements

*The Reverend Daniel R. Morrow*

### The Offertory

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

Please offer your gifts to God by making a bank transfer (EUR or USD), scanning this QR code in your PayPal app or by making a regular financial commitment to Church of the Ascension using the form [http://bit.ly/financial\\_commitment\\_2024](http://bit.ly/financial_commitment_2024). Even a small amount given regularly helps.



### Doxology | Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Musical notation for the Doxology, including lyrics and guitar chords.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. 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.

Chords: B, Em, D, G, D, B7, Em, Am, B, Em, Bm, G, D, B7, Em, Am/C, B, Bm, G, D, B7, Em, Am, B, Em (or E Major)

### The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer 3

*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 our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;

You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

The Holy Eucharist II  
Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

S 125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*The Celebrant continues*

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Celebrant and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people

into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Celebrant and People*

**Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

<p>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.</p>	<p>Vater unser im Himmel          geheiligt werde dein Name.          Dein Reich komme.          Dein Wille geschehe,          wie im Himmel so auf Erden.          Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.          Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,          wie auch wir vergeben          unsern Schuldigern.          Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,          sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.          Denn dein ist das Reich          und die Kraft und die          Herrlichkeit          in Ewigkeit. Amen.</p>
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#### The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Alleluia.

#### The Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant*

This is the banquet of Christ. In His kingdom there are no outcasts. Wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at God's table.

#### **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion with Those Worshiping Online**

*Celebrant and People*

Lord Jesus, as you promised to be with us in the bread and wine that is your body and blood, grant that we may receive you spiritually today into our hearts, minds and souls. Stay with us; be our companion in the way; kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you and have confidence in your loving care, now and forever. Amen.

#### Notes for Those Making a Physical Communion

*We maintain a system of one-way flows. Please remain in your seat until an usher invites you to move forward up the center aisle.*

- *For those with gluten allergies, gluten-free communion wafers are available. Simply ask the priest as communion is offered to you.*
- *After receiving the bread, the chalice will be offered. Following convocation guidelines, intinction (dipping) is not allowed. Please know that the church has always taught that communion in one kind is a full and valid communion. If you do not wish to drink from the chalice, you may touch the chalice as a sign of reverence, stop and bow to the chalice, or simply return to your seat down the side aisle.*



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

### The Postcommunion Prayer BCP p. 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn | *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Hymn 87

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!

The Sending and Blessing

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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Piano Postlude

*The Clergy, Wardens and Vestry of Church of the Ascension wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*