

The Holy Eucharist



The Church of the Ascension

Munich

Christmas Eve Crib Service

December 24, 2023

4.00 p.m.

<http://www.ascension-munich.org/>
Seybothstrasse 4, 81545 Munich

The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion

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Laura Smith
Joachim Zeller

Members of the Vestry

Patrick Kana *Sexton*
Julia Gaspar *Parish Administrator*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Piano Prelude

All are invited to Stand

Opening 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!

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you cause this night to shine with the brightness of the holy light of your Son Jesus Christ, born as a baby in a manger. In his birth, Jesus brings new hope and new life to us and the world. May we live this day and every day in the new hope and new life that Jesus brings to us this night. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Book of 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn | O little town of Bethlehem

Hymn 78

Unison or harmony

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!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-16

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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.

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

The Christmas Story

Children are invited to come forward to the Manger

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

In peace let us pray to the Lord. In this holy night our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God, Holy and Mighty;

People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and all the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Christ.

Welcome

The Offertory

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



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HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology | Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures
 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Presider God dwells in you.
 People And also in you.
 Presider Lift up your hearts.
 People We lift them to the Lord.
 Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Presider and People

**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.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Communion

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.

Communion Hymns | *Away in a manger*



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.

Hymn 101

Silent Night, holy night

Hymn 111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

 all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face,

 Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

 peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Postcommunion Prayer BCP p. 365

Presider Let us pray.
Presider and People

Eternal God, great Creator, 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.

Closing Hymn | Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Hymn 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

- 1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
- 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
- 3 far as the curse is found, far
- 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

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.**

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

Postlude