# The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve

24 December 2023 Carol Prelude 9:00 PM · Holy Eucharist 9:30 PM

# ST. JOHN'S

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH · LAFAYETTE** 





# Welcome to ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE.

May today's worship give you a sense of Christ's peace and inspire you to God's service. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to worship, explore, ask questions, and help yourself to all our parish has to offer. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to an usher, a member of the clergy, or by filling out a guest card. Please visit stjohns-laf.org/guest or use the QR code.



We welcome the full participation of children in our worship. Activity bags are located at the rear of the church and may help them during the liturgy. Please return the bags after the service.

**St. John's has a Hearing Loop system**, which allows those wearing appropriate hearing aids to receive the church's sound system directly. If you wear a hearing aid, you may need your audiologist to activate the T-coil in your device.

# **Carols for the Nativity of Jesus Christ**

The Holly and the Ivy

I Saw Three Ships

**Anthem** Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

The First Nowell

18th Cent. English, arr. Ocker

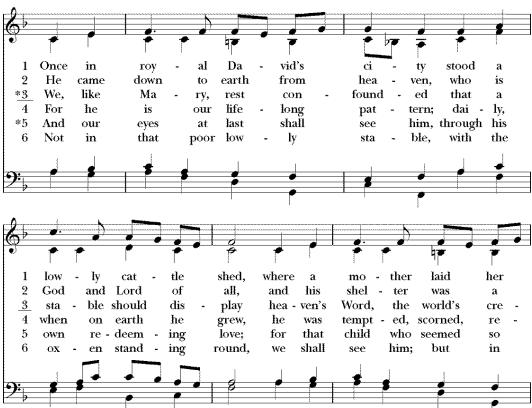
Traditional English, arr. Ocker

John Gardner

17<sup>th</sup> Cent. English, arr. Ocker

#### Please stand for the

Hymn Irby





The Coventry Carol

16th Cent. English, arr. Ocker

Anthem The People Who in Darkness Walked

**David Music** 

#### Forest Green





Please be seated for Joy to the World!

G.F. Handel, arr. Ocker

# The Holy Eucharist

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn

Adeste fideles



Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

#### **Opening Sentences & Collect for Purity**

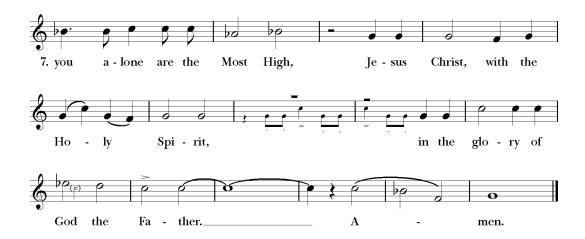
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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**.



William Matthias



#### The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

#### And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 Word of God

The First Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 Cantate Domino

The psalm is chanted by the congregation.

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



1. Sing to the Lord a <u>new song</u>;

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 <u>praised</u>;

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 Lesson Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



God Rest You Merry

The Gospel John 1:1-14

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

#### Sermon

#### 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: 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 and the Son, 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.

#### The Prayers of the People

Holy Child of Bethlehem, angels proclaimed your birth to shepherds at their labors; we pray for all people in their daily life and work: for those called to shepherd your people, and for those who carry your love into the world. May we see your glory in the world around us and, like the shepherds, may we bear witness to your presence among us. *Moment of silence*. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, born in a stable when your parents found no room in the inn, we pray for all who are without shelter, for all who know poverty, and for all who offer, even what little they have, to meet the needs of others. *Moment of silence*. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, welcomed into your mother's loving arms, we pray for all who are lost and alone, for those who are sick or in need, for those who mourn loved ones gone, and for those who are no longer with us but have now been welcomed into your loving arms. *Moment of silence*. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt, whom Herod sought to kill, we pray for all who live with danger, for all who are persecuted, and for all who are far from their homes. *Moment of silence*. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Holy Child of Bethlehem, in you God was pleased to dwell, help us, we pray, to see the divine image in people everywhere, and to honor the divine image in ourselves. Forgive us where we have sinned, strengthen us where we are weak, heal us where we are blind. *Moment of silence*. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

#### The presider continues

Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born into our world, that we might be reborn into eternal life. May we daily live as children of God through your love, as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

#### And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

# The Great Thanksgiving

#### Offertory

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

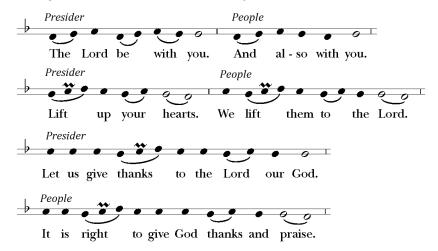
-Isaiah 9.6

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights. -Luke 2.14

#### Offertory Anthem What Sweeter Music

Hal Hopson

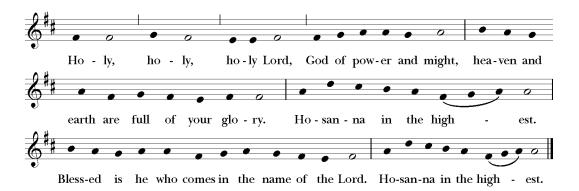
#### The Holy Eucharist Eucharistic Prayer B



#### The presider continues

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 presider continues

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 Blessed Mary, Blessed John, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

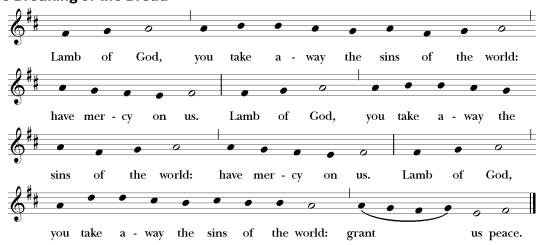


#### The Lord's Prayer

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



#### The Invitation & Communion of the People

The consecrated Bread and Wine are living signs of the presence of Christ in this gathering. All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion; however, no one who comes forward will be refused. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please ask when you come forward.

### **Music during Communion**

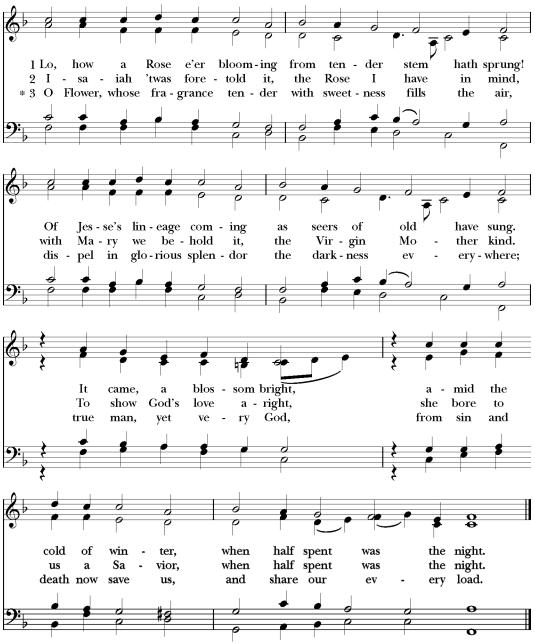
Hymn Break forth, O beau - teous heaven - ly light, and ush - er the morn - ing; O shep - herds, greet that glo - rious sight, our Lord ing. This crib dorn child, this help - less boy, shall be fi dence and joy, the our con power of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace

Ermuntre dich

In dulci jubilo



**Hymn** Es ist ein Ros



Anthem A Stable Lamp is Lighted

David Hurd

Please kneel or stand for the

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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.

#### **Hymn after Communion**



#### **Christmas Blessing**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; 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** Mendelssohn



#### **Dismissal**

A member of the clergy dismisses the people. The people respond **Thanks be to God.** 

**Voluntary** Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

#### **Advent Greens and Christmas Flowers**

The Advent greens, Christmas arrangements, and pillar candles in the side windows are provided in part by thank offerings from

Cindy Gerlach & Gary Mueller in memory of Russel Gerlach

Arlene Kusek in memory of Gerald Kusek

Jim and Carolyn Roth in memory of their daughter Marie Roth Henderson

Marylin Howland Ross in memory of Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt

Marilyn Leigh in memory of her parents, Floyd and Pearl Fetter

Jack Sullivan in memory of Patsy Roderick

The Elder Pace Family in memory of Linda Meyer

Lisa Zimmerman in memory of Jim Zimmerman

Joe Vanable in memory of Jane and Betsy Vanable

Alyce Dressler & Mara Fox

The Mascarenhas Family

Jim & Sandy Bodenmiller

**Nancy Dandrow** 

Camp & Comfort Gordinier



# The Offering

While there is no offering at today's service, you are invited to contribute to the mission and ministry of St. John's, Lafayette at <a href="https://www.stjohns-laf.org">www.stjohns-laf.org</a> or by using the QR code.



# **Those Serving**

Presider Hilary Cooke
Preacher Bradley Pace
Assisting Priest Jason Fortner
Director of Music Michael Bennett
MC Maggie McClure

Acolytes Ezra Buzzard-Cooke, Phoenix Buzzard-Cooke, & Greg McClure

Readers Linda Jeffries & Cindy Gerlach
Eucharistic Ministers Randy Brist & Jennifer Stein

**Ushers** Becky Dick, Bruce Johnson, & Kathy Johnson

Altar Guild Jennifer Chandler, Sharon Evander, Jo Roberts, Carl Taylor, & Elizabeth White

**String Quartet** Amy Brandfonbrener, Greg Buzzard, Regan Eckstein, & Sara Wollan

**Reception Hosts** Mike Benner, Kristine Holtvedt, & Carl Taylor



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# The staff and clergy of ST. JOHN'S **LAFAYETTE** wish you and your family a joyous Christmas season.



# Christmas at.ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

The First Sunday after Christmas, December 31 9:00 Morning Prayer *via Zoom* & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 7 One service only at 10:15 a.m. Epiphany Pageant & Holy Eucharist

The St. John's office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1.



# ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

# Worshiping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

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# **Parish Staff & Leadership**

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop · Bradley Pace, Rector Jason Fortner, Curate · Teresa Lohrman, Associate for Administration & Finance Michael Bennett, Director of Music · Amanda Yauney, Director of Christian Education Becky Dick, Sr. Warden · Bruce Johnson, Jr. Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.