

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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Prelude

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Dupre

Opening Hymn

*Angels we have heard on high*

Hymnal #96

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.

Acclamation

pg. 355 in Book of Common Prayer

Collect for Purity

Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

**THE EPISTLE:** *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

<sup>4:4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## The Psalm: Psalm 147:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;

<sup>14</sup>For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.

<sup>15</sup>He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>16</sup>He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs very swiftly.

<sup>17</sup>He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

<sup>18</sup>He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?

<sup>19</sup>He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

<sup>20</sup>He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

<sup>21</sup>He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments.

*Hallelujah!*

## GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## The Sermon

### Nicene Creed

pg. 358 in Book of Common Prayer

### Prayers of the People

### Confession of Sin

pg. 360 in BCP

### The Peace

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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### Offertory Music

*Away in a Manger*

arr. Red

### Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

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.**  
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . . to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

*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.**  
*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, O God . . .  
. . . 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 and thanksgiving . . .  
. . . 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.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

**Fraction Anthem**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**  
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Music**

*Of the Father's love begotten*

Hymnal #82

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!  
O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!  
Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!  
Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be; honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

*Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

Hymnal #81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's  
love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

*Es ist ein Ros, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius*

**Postcommunion Prayer**

*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.*

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Hymnal #107

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!

John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

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