

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Hark! the Herald angels sing

Hymnal #87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Refrain

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

THE EPISTLE: *Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Psalm – Psalm 84:1-8

- ¹*How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.*
- ²*The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.*
- ³*Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.*
- ⁴*Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*
- ⁵*Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.*
- ⁶*They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.*
- ⁷*LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.*
- ⁸*Behold our defender, O God; * and look upon the face of your Anointed.*

GOSPEL - Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

¹³After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

pg. 358 in Book of Common Prayer

Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin

pg. 360 in BCP

The Peace

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

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.

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

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

Once in royal David's city

Hymnal #102

Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and scorned, the lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on
Christmas Day, yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.

For He is our lifelong pattern, daily when on earth he grew, he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like
us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love; For that child who seemed so helpless is our
Lord in heaven above; And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by, We shall see Him, but in heaven, where his saints his throne
surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

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

Go tell it on the mountain (verses 1, 3)

Hymnal #99

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967)

Dismissal

Postlude

PERMISSION TO PODCAST/STREAM THE MUSIC IN THIS SERVICE OBTAINED FROM
ONE LICENSE, LICENSE #A-700000. ALL WORDS AND MUSIC REPRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-70929