



Christmas Eve 6:00pm

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

DIÖCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA - ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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A Celebration of the Lord's Birth

Christmas Eve 2023

Welcome and Merry Christmas to all!

We welcome you on this Holy Night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Father Albert Cutié and our entire St. Benedict's family is happy to welcome you to this special celebration. We encourage you to make this a time of sacred worship and joy. Please silence your cell phones and join us as we celebrate the love of God in Word and Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

From the Gospel of John (1:1-14) *proclaimed by the Rector, the people stand*

The Lord be with you

The People respond: **And also with you**

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. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord...

The People respond: **Thanks be to God.**

At the Manger

Celebrant Alleluia! Unto us a Child is born:

People **Come, let us adore Him, Alleluia!**

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we, your people, may enter with joy into the celebration of the day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted daughters and sons; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 83:

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

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

People: *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. 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.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Mass of the Holy Nativity

The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you!**

Let us pray: O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. People: *Amen.*

The Word of God

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

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 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.**

The Gradual Psalm

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-12

- 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.
- 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.

A reading from the Letter to Titus

Titus 2:11-14

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.**

Sequence Hymn: **Hymn 79**

O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Luke 2:1-20**

Deacon 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!*" *Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord *People* **Praise to you Lord Christ!**

Sermon

The Reverend Albert Cutié, Rector

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Eternal God, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human form.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
God, in your mercy All: ***Hear our prayer.***

In this holy night, Christians the world over are celebrating his birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
God, in your mercy ***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.
God, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all those who are in pain or distress this night.
God, in your mercy ***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 by word and example.
God, in your mercy ***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, here and in all the world.
God, in your mercy ***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.
God, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer.***

Priest: O God, you have given us a new revelation of your love in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he is alive and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

The Celebrant continues, singing the Preface of the Incarnation.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power, God of 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. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel. The Celebrant 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,

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

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, St. Benedict 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. *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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Fraction Anthem at the Breaking of the Bread

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us Thy peace.

Invitation to Holy Communion The Gifts of God for the People of God: take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: **Hymn 115**

What child is this, who, laid to rest

Greensleeves

The Post-Communion Prayer

All: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Post - Communion Hymn: **Hymn 111**

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

A Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his goodness and love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional: **Hymn 100**

Joy to the World! The Lord is come

Antioch



SAINT BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA – ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Our mission is to know Christ's love, and to make it known
Nuestra misión es conocer el amor de Cristo y darlo a conocer

The Reverend Albert R. Cutié, Rector
The Reverend Debra McLaughlin, Deacon
Ms. Linda Schlepp-Gray, Parish Administrator
Dr. Daniel Copher, Organist and Choirmaster

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