

St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Holy Eucharist—The Feast of the Incarnation
In Person & Virtual Service via Facebook Live, YouTube
December 24th, 2025
5:30PM

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.

And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door

____And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.____



Christmas Flowers Offered



To the Glory of God with Thanksgiving by:

Ken & Fran Jurney

The McLemore Family

Jim & Judy Blackburn

To the Glory of God in Memory of: By:

Al Mary, Artice, & Rob

Cleve Marion Cole & Family



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

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

The people standing, as are able, the Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say

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**.

The Hymnal 1982 - #96 Angels We have Heard on High



Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

The Readings

The people sit

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 (responsively by full verse; final verse in unison)

- 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.
- 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.

Titus 2:11-14

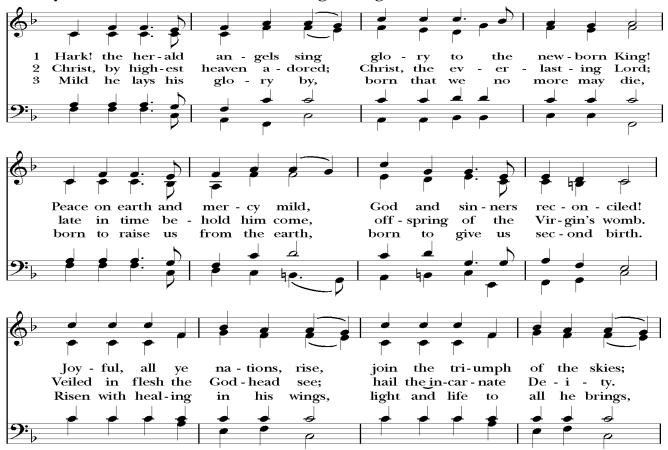
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus 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.

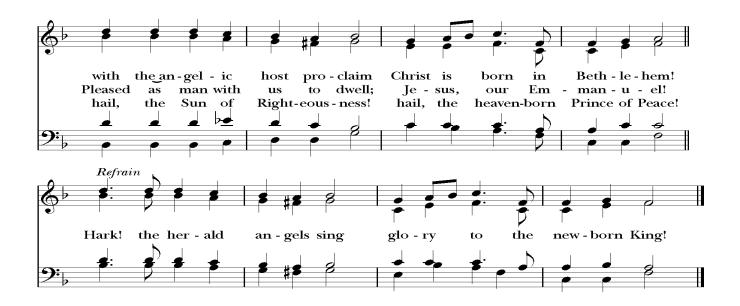
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #57 Hark the Herald Angels Sing





Then, all standing, as are able, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke. *People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 2:1-20

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured

all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Rev. Dn. Mark Witte

A brief time of reflection follows the 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

As we join the angels and celebrate with joy the birth of the Son of God, let us offer prayers to God who gives new birth to sons and daughters in every place.

Deacon

By the birth of the timeless Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Andy, Kai, Jeff, Hector, and Brian our bishops and the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the conversion of the whole human race to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, Luke, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

Presider

Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ who unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People in unison

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

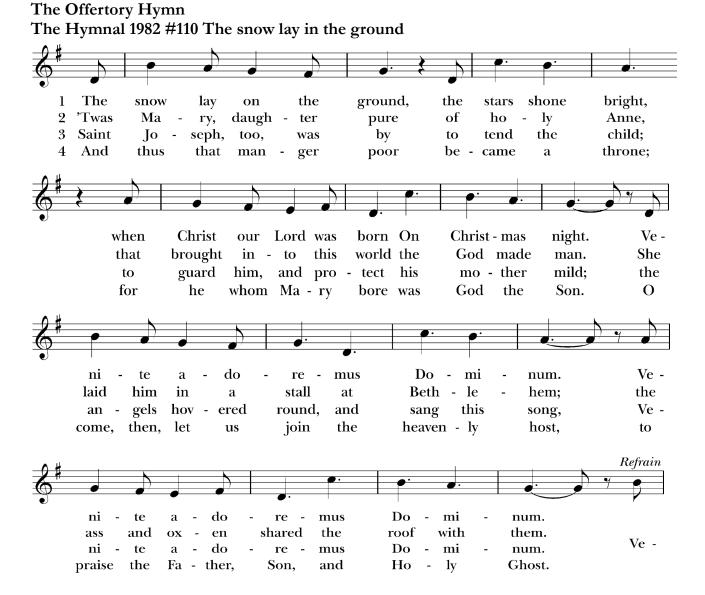
All stand, as are able. The Celebrant says to the people

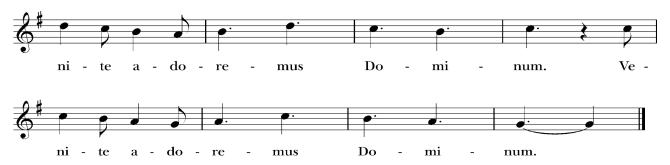
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

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





Words: Source unknown, 19th cent. Music: Venite adoremus, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968).

The Doxology

(sung to The Hymnal 618)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. Alleluia (5x)

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

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 proceeds

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 Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #130 The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus





The people stand or kneel, as are able.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**.

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

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

Jesus said to them, "Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you." *John 14:27*

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.

Concerning Holy Communion

"This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."



If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

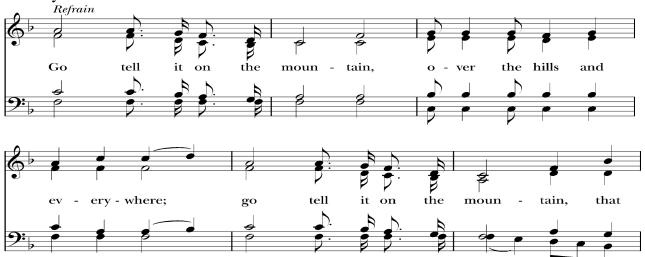
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.

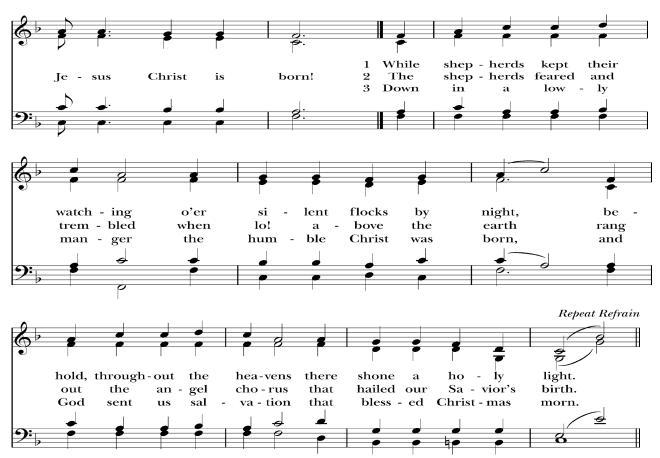
Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.

Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #99 Go Tell It on the Mountain





Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Lift Every Voice and Sing II #27 Away in a manger



Words: Anonymous

Music: James R. Murray (1841-1905); arr. Edythe Ethelynn Woodruff (b. 1970). Used by Permission,

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.



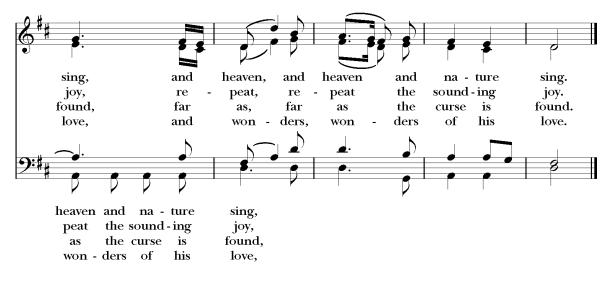
Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy, peace, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 # The Hymnal 1982 #100 Joy to the World! The Lord is Come





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

The Prayers of the People in today's service were written by the late Dn. Ormonde Plater (+2016)



From the Calendar of the Saints

December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord

This date was settled upon in Rome in 336 for the celebration of Jesus' birth. The word "Christmas" is a twelfth century contraction of "Christ's Mass."

December 26 Saint Stephen Deacon and Martyr

One of the seven original deacons, Stephen was stoned to death for blasphemy. His death initiated the spread of Christianity beyond Jerusalem when Jesus' followers scattered out of fear.

December 27 Saint John Apostle and Evangelist

With Peter and his own brother James, John was a member of Jesus' inner circle. He is the only one of the original twelve apostles to live to extreme old age and die of natural causes.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector The Rev. Dn. Mark Witte – Curate The Rev. Leslie Guinn - Assisting

Staff

Lexi McLemore – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Dn. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister
Narciso Molina – Trumpeter

Vestry

Term Ending 2025 – Gail Johnson & Karl Aho Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

