

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1401 W. Park Ave.

Orange, TX 77630

409-883-2969

stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com

Holy Eucharist Rite II

The service is in the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), a blue book.

Hymns are in *The Hymnal*, a maroon book. Hymn numbers beginning with "S" are at the front of *The Hymnal*.

Celebrant: The Rev. Margaret Lovejoy

Deacon: The Rev. Margaret Light

Preacher: The Rev. Margaret Lovejoy

Prelude

Organist

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Hymnal 83

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

The Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

PEOPLE; **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

CELEBRANT: 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 (Sung by all.)

The Hymnal S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

(See Readings Insert)

ALL: **Amen.**

Anthem

Tiny King

Choir

Carol Sing

The Snow Lay on the Ground

The Hymnal 110



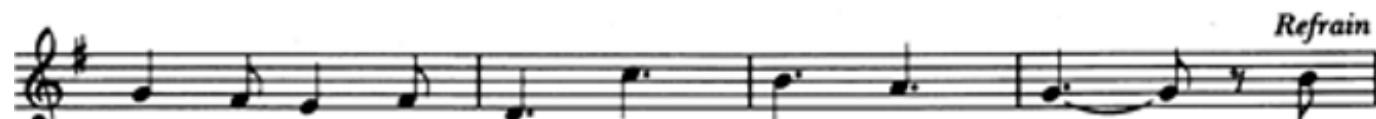
1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,
3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;
4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;



when Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. Ve -
that brought in - to this world the God made man. She
to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the
for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - - num. Ve -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the
an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song,
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host; to



Refrain
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - - num.
ass and ox - en shared the roof with them. Ve -
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - - num.
praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - - num. Ve -



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - - num.

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean estate, where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Please be seated for the Readings.

The First Lesson:

READER: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

(See Readings Insert)

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm:

READER:

(See Readings Insert)

The psalm appointed for today is Psalm 96. We will read responsively by whole verse.

The Second Lesson:

READER: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus

(See Readings Insert)

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand for the Gradual Hymn

Gradual

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Hymnal 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dering love.
3 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Please remain standing for the Gospel reading.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

(See Readings Insert)

CELEBRANT: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

PEOPLE: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel

DEACON: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, all stand and say 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,
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

(See Readings Insert)

The Peace (All stand)

CELEBRANT: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

Announcements

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory

Salvation is Created

Choir

Doxology



Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all ye creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heaven-ly hosts. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Book of Common Prayer p. 367

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

CELEBRANT: Lift up your hearts.

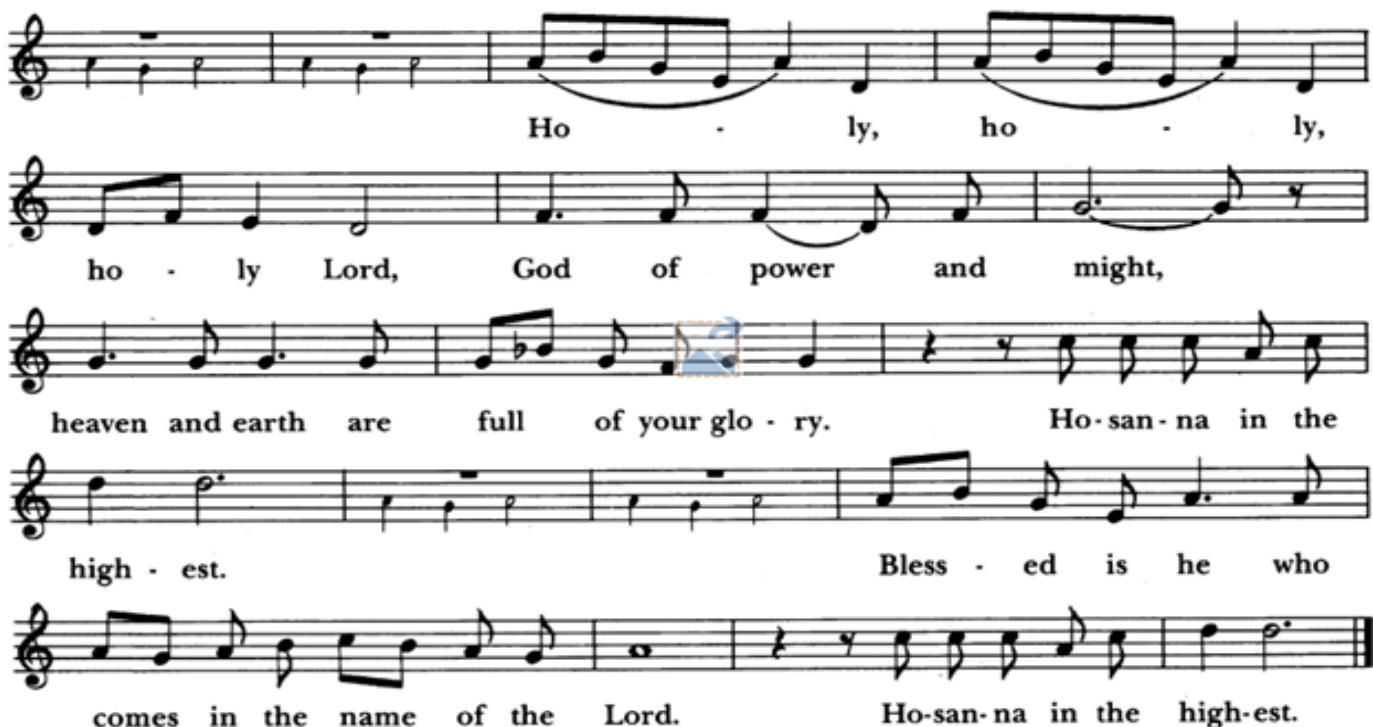
PEOPLE: We lift them to the Lord.

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, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 people stand or kneel.

CELEBRANT: 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."

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE:

Memorial Acclamation

The Hymnal S-138

Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,
We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

CELEBRANT: 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 [] 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 forever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer p. 365

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE:

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

Silence

Fraction Anthem:

Alleluia, Christ, Our Passover

The Hymnal S 154

(Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

CELEBRANT: 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.

We joyfully invite all baptized Christians to join us at the table of our Lord.

If you prefer to receive communion in the pews, please let the ushers know.

If you do not wish to receive communion, but instead wish to receive a blessing, come forward and stand or kneel at the altar, crossing your arms over your chest.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **(Amen.)**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **(Amen.)**

Communion Music:

Dona Nobis Pacem

Choir

Carol of the Bells

Choir

O Holy Night

Donna Hall and Choir

Candlelight Carol

Silent Night

The Hymnal 111

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake Son of God,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. born!
 born! Christ, in the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Post Communion Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer p. 366

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

Joy to the World

The Hymnal 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as, the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

Lower voices repeat text.

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

The Dismissal

DEACON: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Organ



Celebrant: The Rev. Margaret Lovejoy

Deacon: The Rev. Margaret Light

Choir: Donna Hall (soloist), Arlene Howland, Macy Ostten,
Allen Jones, Bill Smith, Thomas Doyle

Brass: Aaron Goldin, Trumpet; Warren Petkovsek, Trombone

Organist: Don Ball, Jr.

