

—The Episcopal Parish of—  
**St. Mark  
& St. Paul**  
—On the Mountain—

**Christmas Eve**  
December 24, 2023

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

***The warmest of welcomes on this holy night!***

***Restrooms are available in Claiborne Parish House,  
the building directly behind the church.***

**Prelude:** Canonic variations on *Vom Himmel hoch*, BWV 769a  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Hymn 83:** “O come, all ye faithful” *Adeste fideles*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The celebrant prays the Collect for Purity, to which the people respond* **Amen.**

**Hymn 96:** “Angels we have heard on high” *Gloria*

*Celebrant* 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.  
*People* **Amen.**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**  
*After the lesson*  
*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King! Peace on earth and  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord; late in time be -  
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! Light and life to

mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled! Joy-ful, all ye na-tionsrise, join the triumph  
hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the in-car-nate  
all he brings, risen with heal-ing in his wings. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no

of the skies; with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
De - i - ty. Pleased as man with men to dwell; Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!  
more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

**Psalm 96** (Sung by cantor with congregational antiphon)



Let the hea-vens re-joice, and let the earth be glad be-fore the Lord, for he has come.

- 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.

*Antiphon*

- 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.

*Antiphon*

- 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.

*Antiphon*

Serving Today

*Celebrant*– The Rev. Molly McGee Short  
*Crucifer* – Beth Wiley  
*Chalice Bearer*– Bob MacLellan  
*Readers*–John Gatta, Susanne Morrisey  
*Intercessor*– Karl Sjolund  
*Ushers* – Susan Holmes and Greg Maynard  
*Organist* – Kenneth Miller, D.M.A.  
*Altar Guild* – Beth Wiley  
*Bread Baker* – Mamie O’Neal, Olivia Howard

**Announcements**

**Prayer Requests:** Cricket Bogert, Peggy Bonds, , Lisa Cantrell, Corky Carlisle, Bev Chase, Margaret Edsall, Sue Hawkins, Karen Keele, Pat Kirby, Mike Mattei, George Ramseur, Jean Stell, Evelyn Taylor, Bill, the people of Gaza, Israel, and Ukraine

**Departed:** Paul Cahoon

**St. Mark & St. Paul office and CAC will be closed** on Monday, December 25, Tuesday December 26 and Monday, January 2.

**The Rev. Rob Lamborn** will be off work December 26-January 2. The parish office will be open December 27-30. For urgent matters outside of office hours please contact Senior Warden Lynn Taylor.

**Sunday Services** at St. Mark and St. Paul on December 31 will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am. . **Sunday school, youth, and adult education** will resume Sunday, January 8.

**The Feast of the Epiphany** will be celebrated here with a service on Saturday, January 6, at 4:30pm, followed by a potluck supper.

## 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.**

*Celebrant and People* (music near front of blue hymnal at S164)

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:**

**Give us your peace.** (repeat)

*When Bread and Wine are ready for distribution, the Celebrant says*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion; those not baptized are invited forward to participate by receiving a blessing.*

**Hymn 78:** "O little town of Bethlehem" (*Forest Green*)

**Hymn 111:** "Silent Night, holy night" (*Stille Nacht*)

*After Communion, the Celebrant says* Let us pray

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

**Hymn 100:** "Joy to the world! the Lord is come" (Antioch)

*The Celebrant pronounces a blessing. To each of the four sections, the People respond Amen.*

*When dismissed, the People respond* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Toccata on *Antioch* Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

## Titus 2:11-14

*After the lesson*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** (*next to last page of bulletin*): "Hark the herald angels sing:"  
(*Mendelssohn*)

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

## Luke 2:1-20

*After the Gospel*

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Meghan J. Mazur

## 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*The people respond to each petition* **Hear our prayer.**

*The celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect; the people respond* **Amen.**

*Then the celebrant says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*In greeting each other in the name of the Lord please be sensitive to COVID and to others' comfort.*

### **Announcements**

#### **Offertory Anthem**

1. Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

2. By his Word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three-in-one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

3. He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created

Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

5. This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Savior;  
Let the world his praises cry!  
*Evermore and evermore.*

***The congregation stands and joins in the singing of the final stanza:***

6. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; an-gels and arch-an-gels,  
sing! Where-so-e'er ye be, ye faith-ful, let your joy-ous  
an-thems ring, Ev-ery tongue his name con-fess-ing,  
count-less voi-ces an-swer-ing, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.\_\_\_\_\_