



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC
An Online Expression of Holy Eucharist

The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Eve December 24, 2020

The Rev. James G. Reed – Celebrant and Preacher
Dexter Ruffin, Organist
Lisa Lund, Lay Reader

Opening Hymn

O Come, all ye faithful (vs 1, 3, 6)

H 83

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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Christmas Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Song of Praise (Dexter)

Angels we have heard on high (vs 1, 2 & 4)

H 96

THE LESSON (read by Lisa Lund)

A Reading from Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97 (read by Lisa Lund)

- ¹ 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- ² 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- ³ 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- ⁴ 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- ⁵ 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- ⁶ 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- ⁷ 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- ⁸ 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- ⁹ 9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- ¹¹ 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- ¹² 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem (vs 1, 3, 4 & 5)

H 78

THE GOSPEL

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. James G. Reed

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 - FORM III (read by Lisa Lund)

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Anne, our Bishops; Jim, our priest; and for all bishops,
priests, deacons, and those in religious orders.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Donald our President, Roy our Governor, and Carlton our Mayor and all who govern and hold
authority in the nations of the world.
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on; those who have immediate needs -- Buster Dawson, Bonnie Campbell, Eva Morriss, Bill Wrenn, Dallas Clark, April Lamm, Jerry Hamill, Miles Johnson, Chris Perri, Don Doster, William Blake Tucker, Mike Pierce, Eddie Rodriguez, Fannie Lee Dickerson, Bud & Anna Jane Ruffin, Michelle Williams, Ginger Williams, Tom Sheen, those affected by Covid-19, those affected by the lack of respect for the dignity of every person; and, those who have ongoing needs as listed in our website and those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed, eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; especially Dick Cozart.
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence.

Let us pray together:

O gracious God, you know our needs as we continue this journey to recognize and select our new Rector.

We pray that You give us a renewed spirit of devotion to this purpose.

Let nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past. Give to us the ability to respect, with love and compassion, whatever differences of opinion, thought, and ideas we may have with each other.

Finally, we ask Your blessing upon the St. Timothy's family, as we continue to pray for the priest, known to You. All this we ask in Jesus's name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

We pray for the mission and ministries of our sister Episcopal Churches of St Mark's and Guadalupana.

We pray for our military personnel serving throughout the world, particularly those in war zones. We pray for those affected by terrorism, both domestic and abroad, and for those who protect us from such acts of violence.

We pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially Abby Fielding, Beth McKinney, Beth McLean, Carter Smith, Toby Barnes, Garland Homes, Devon Stronach, and Olivia Daynes.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory (Dexter)

The First Noel (vs 1, 3 & 5)

H 109

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

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 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.*

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

Continue with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (said) BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem (said) S 154

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Communion

Communion Hymn *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* (vs 1,2,3) H 81

Post Communion Prayer BCP 365

Silent night, holy night (1,2,3) H 111

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

The Christmas Blessing & Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY (Dexter) *Hark! the herald angels sing* H 87