## Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

Festival Eucharist, Rite 2 - 6:30pm, December 24, 2023



St. Mark's Episcopal Anglican Church Fairland Parish

Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Wilkins, Rector

# Festival Eucharist, Rite II Nativity of Our Lord

## Choral and Organ Prelude - Bulletin insert

## **Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant The Savior of the world draws nigh.

People O, come let us adore him.

Celebrant: Please rise as our worship begins with the hymn: "O come, all ye

faithful."

The Altar Party begins the procession.

## Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn #83 vvs.1,2,3,6

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

- 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels; *Refrain*
- 2. God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain*
- 3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*
- 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*

## The Bidding Prayer

The Celebrant says:

We have come together as the family of God in God's presence to celebrate the birth of God's son. This night we hear the news of his birth, as did the shepherds of old, and celebrate that gift in prayer, in word, and in song.

As we offer to you, O Lord, this thanksgiving, we pray you cleanse our hearts and our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

## Gloria: Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn #96 vvs.1-3

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

- 1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. *Refrain*
- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What
- great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? Refrain
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

## The Collect for the Nativity

The Celebrant prays:

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 Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority, 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. Peoble: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day: Cantate Domino

Sung by the Choristers

Psalm 96

- Sing to the LORD a new song; \* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*
  Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.
- Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 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."
- 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.

- Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \*
  when he comes to judge the earth.
- He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

#### The New Testament Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> 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.

Gradual Hymn: *Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light* Hymn #91 Trumpet Solo, Todd Hines. Please stand as you are able and sing when the solo ends.

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, greet that glorious sight, our Lord a crib adorning.
This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

The Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

- 2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
- <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup> to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
- <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
  - <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will unto all people."
- <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying

which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Homily: God With Us

## The Creed

Led by the LEM, the People say

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and 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 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 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 - Nativity 2023

The LEM or Reader says

God of peace, we pray this *night* for those who dwell in your Son's native land, now in their time of peril.

For all who fear, we pray; give them hope.

For all who are in danger, we pray; give them safety.

For all who are held captive, we pray; give them freedom.

For all who have lost their homes, we pray; give them shelter.

For all who suffer, we pray; give them healing.

For all who have died, we pray; give them rest.

For all who mourn, we pray; give them comfort.

For those who hold the lives of others in their hands, we pray; give them mercy and grant them wisdom.

For reconciliation, we pray.

For dignity, we pray.

For peace, we pray.

God of mercy, none can separate us from your love.

God of love, none can sound the well of your grace.

God of grace, spare us, spare your people, we pray; grant us hope.

This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

## The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you,

People: And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another at physical distance.

## Offertory Anthem: And the Glory of the Lord

from "Messiah"

A Deacon or Priest prepares the altar and sanctuary for the Eucharist.

## The Holy Eucharist: 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 God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 of the flesh of the Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim your glory:

Sanctus Hymn #S-125

The Choristers lead the People as they say:

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.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 your Word made flesh: Jesus, your Son. For in the fullness of time you sent him among us to live and die as one of us, the Savior and the Redeemer of the world. In him you deliver us from evil, and make us worthy to stand before you. In him, you bring us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life.

On the night before he was betrayed unto death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread. Giving thanks to you, he broke it, and shared it with them, saying:

"Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."  $\ddagger$ 

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying:

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me." ‡

Therefore, according to his command, O Lord,

The People, led by the LEM, say

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, fruit of the vine and the work of human hands. Send your Holy Spirit upon them 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 to live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Mother of God, and all your saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, now and forever. AMEN. ‡‡

Now, as Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

## The Lord's Prayer

The LEM leads the People as they say:

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.

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and then keeps a period of silence.

The Choristers lead the People in singing

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Hymnal #S-155

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

The People come forward to receive Communion.

## Communion Anthem: O magnum mysterium Tomas Luia de Victoria

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. The Celebrant prays

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.

As the lights are dimmed, the Choristers lead the People in singing

## Meditative Carol: Silent Night

## Hymn #111

- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing

- alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## Blessing and Dismissal

The Bishop, if present, or the Celebrant says

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord be with you, this day and always, and give you peace.

## Recessional Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #87

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem! *Refrain*
- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh

- the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

The Altar Party and the People depart.

The LEM says

Let us go forth, in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

## Postlude: Variations on Christmas Carols

W. Held

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## St. Mark's Fairland Choristers - Christmas 2023

<u>Sopranos</u>	<u>Altos</u>	<u>Tenors</u>	<u>Baritone</u>
Kirsten Hines*	Abby Hines*	Todd Hines	Kelly Cameron
Chelsea Shephard*	Emily Hines*	Claude Langley	Brian Speck*
Janis Smith	Lee Mericle	Chuck Smith	Ralph Ward*
Rosanne Tingley	Katie Shephard*		
	Gail Soulea		
Gretchen Hines-Ward*			

## **Greening Contributions/Donations**

Given by Anonymous friend of St. Mark's.

Given by Claude and Charlene Langley in Thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.

Given by Laura Robey in Thanksgiving for her family and in Memory of those that have gone before her.

Given by Kim Alison Hazel in Memory of David and Ruth Hazel.

<sup>\*</sup>Supplemental Chorister

Given by Alta J. Cannaday in Thanksgiving for life and in Memory of Albert J.

Cannaday.

Given by Pamela J. Gibson in Thanksgiving for Brianna Gibson and in Memory of

Danial R. Gibson, Dorothe Dow, and Helen Gibson.

Given by Uloma Nwauche in Memory of Eze I.O. Nwauche.

Given by Olivia Lee in Thanksgiving for all blessing and family and in Memory of

Raymond H. Lee.

Given by Don and Ann Hague in Thanksgiving for Bruce, Beau, Lowell Ann, Luci,

Randall, Matthew, Chelsea, Katie, Brian, and Rodrigo.

Given by Rosanne Tingley and Brian Lehman in Thanksgiving for family, friends,

and pets.

Given by Joyce and Carl Jackson in Thanksgiving for all their blessings.

Given by The Vargas Family in Memory of Miles D. Vargas.

\*Our services and events may be live-streamed and/or recorded. By entering the

service/event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming,

promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, and/or any other purpose by St.

Mark's Episcopal Church. \*

If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit out of range of the video camera.

Readers and Intercessor

1st Reader: Gail Soulea

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader: Olivia Lee

Intercessor: Uloma Nwauche-Unonu

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#### St. Mark's Announcements

- 1. <u>Office Closure:</u> The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2023, and Tuesday, December 26, 2023, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.
- 2. <u>Sunday Adult Study and Discussion:</u> is on hiatus this week. It will resume on Sunday December 31, 2023.

Our current topic of study: The 1st Book of Enoch and Other Pseudepigrapha.

Our next topic of study: Walter Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel Movement.

- 3. <u>Altar Flowers:</u> Beginning with Easter and through the season of Epiphany, you may sponsor the Altar Flowers for any Sunday or major feast day in memory of your loved ones, a birthday, an anniversary, or any other suitable occasion or even just because. The sign-up book with details is in the church office or, on Sundays, in the narthex (at the back of the church). Please contact the office for more information or to support this part of our worship.
- 4. <u>Assisting with Worship and Other Ministries:</u> We welcome interested volunteers to serve at either worship service as Lectors (Readers), Intercessors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs), Acolytes, Ushers, and Greeters. We also need a new Head of Outreach, or a team of leaders, to lead this ministry, and would welcome new members to the Fellowship Committee, Counter Team, and Altar Guild. Please see Rev. Christopher if you would be interested in serving in any of these roles.
- 5. <u>Bag Lunches for Elizabeth House:</u> On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, following the 8:00am service, St. Mark's Outreach ministry makes bag lunches for those in need at Elizabeth House. St. Mark's is looking for volunteers to help make these bag lunches. Please contact Linda Toran or the office if you would like to volunteer.
- 6. <u>Coffee Hour Hosting:</u> Please consider helping to host the *Coffee Hour* following the 10:30 service. Help is needed with setup, cleanup, and purchasing. There is a sign-up notebook located on the wall beside the coffee pot in the Parish Hall. The notebook includes instructions on what a host needs to do. We give thanks for all those who help with this ministry of hospitality.

- 7. <u>Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) Meeting:</u> Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00pm in the library. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting via Zoom.
- 8. <u>Vestry Meeting:</u> Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting Zoom.

Please check your e-letters and the website for the most up-to-date information.

#### Save the Date

Sunday, December 31, 2023: St. Mark's New Years Eve: Worship times: 8am and 10:30am.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024: Food Distribution: St. Mark's has partnered with the Capitol Area Foodbank and Vietnamese American Services (VAS), to bring fresh vegetables and fruits to the community on a first come, first served basis, once a month between 1pm and 3pm. Please pick up food at the Parish Hall. NO proof of income is required. St. Mark's parishioners may call the at 301-622-5860 to reserve a produce bag, as we recognize that mid-afternoon pick-up may be difficult. We also have some frozen protein available. PLEASE ASK for protein when picking up your reserved produce; we are happy to provide it!! All reserved food must be picked up no later than 3pm on Friday. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: if you can spare an hour or two on Wednesday between 11:00am and 3:00pm to help sort, bag and distribute food, please let Janis know at administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org.

<u>Sunday, February 11, 2024: St. Mark's Annual Meeting:</u> More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

## St. Mark's Mission

- **We will deepen our faith** by adopting more liturgical options to reach out into the community.
  - \* We will extend our outreach by getting more people involved in and reaching more people through community involvement.
- \* We will embrace evangelism by choosing to be a church that reaches out to our community and spread the good news of Christ.
  - **\*** We will increase our participation by being committed to our church through regular attendance, and giving of our resources of time, talent, and treasure.

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fairland, MD

12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904 office@stmarks-silverspring.org \* 301-622-5860 ext. 180

Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by appointment. Rector regular office hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 10-4. Please call, text, or email the rector if you would like to schedule an appointment or have an immediate pastoral need or concern.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins, Rector

<u>rector@stmarks-silverspring.org</u> \* Cell: 301-768-3075 \* 301-622-5860 ext. 105

Janis Smith, Parish Administrator

administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org \* 301-622-5860 ext. 104

Don Hague, Director of Music

Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary

Pamela Gibson, Senior Warden

Rosanne Tingley, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website: <a href="https://www.stmarksfairland.org">www.stmarksfairland.org</a> \* <a href="https://www.stmarks-silverspring.org">www.stmarks-silverspring.org</a>

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

Cover Art Photo: Le Breton, Jacques ; Gaudin, Jean. Nativity with Mary, Joseph and the New-Born Christ, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=29379 [retrieved December 18, 2023]. Original source: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.