

Order of Service for
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE NATIVITY**



Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace; 20th century mural, Chicago, IL

April 28, 2024

10:30 A.M.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

This service bulletin contains all that you need for our service. We invite you to participate fully in our worship. If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Episcopal Church, simply allow the congregation to carry you in worship. At times you will be invited to stand but this is only an invitation and is not required.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude

Processional: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Hymnal 1982, #522

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

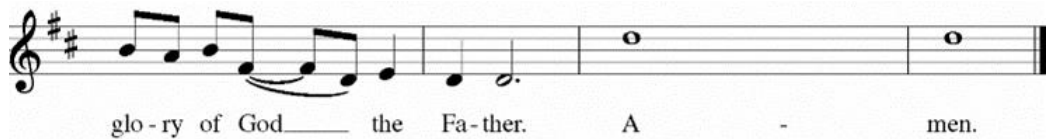
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria: Glory to God

LEVAS #241

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to His peo - ple on earth.
 Lord God, heav-en-ly King,— al - might - y God— and Fa-ther,

we wor - ship you, — we give you thanks, — we
praise_ you for — your glo-ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our
prayer. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, — you_ a - lone — are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most — High, —
Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

The psalm is chanted together to the setting below (S415). The forward-slash indicates moving to the next note.



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- 24 My praise is of him in the great as/sembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who /worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall /praise him: *
"May your heart live for /ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the /LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow be/fore him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the /LORD; *
he rules over the /nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in /worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall be/fore him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall /serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for /ever.
- (Second half of chant)*
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet un/born *
the saving deeds that he has /done.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Open Your Ears

Hymnal 1982, #536

1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
 o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
 they who have ears, then let them hear. They who would learn the
 roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you. *Fine*
 way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
 God has spo - ken to his peo - ple, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 And his words are words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu -

jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken to his peo - ple,
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra,
 Hal - le - lu - jah! And his words are
 To - rah o - ra,
 words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, Hal - le - lu - jah!

“Torah ora” is Hebrew for, “The Law is our Light.”

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

Celebrant
People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant
People

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Let us stand and confirm our faith in the words of 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 Form IV

BCP 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those who are on our prayer list; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Peace

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Anthem: “How Can I Keep From Singing” arr. Shaw

Doxology: Hymnal 1982 #380, Verse 3 (Old Hundredth)

Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal 1982, #S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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:

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,

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,

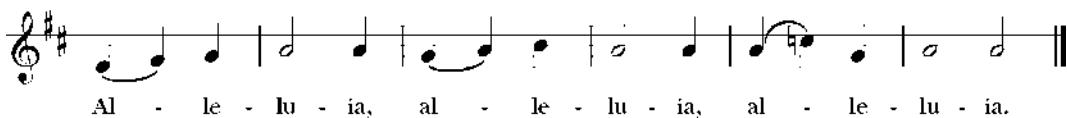
For ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem: Christ Our Passover

Hymnal 1982, #S155



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.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Ushers are available to help.

Communion Hymn: Bread of Heaven on Thee We Feed

Hymnal 1982, #323

1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed, for thy Flesh is
2 Vine of heaven, thy Blood sup-plies this blest cup of

meat in-deed; ev - er may our souls be fed
sac - ri - fice; Lord, thy wounds our heal - ing give,

with this true and liv - ing Bread; day by day with
to thy cross we look and live: Je - sus, may we

strength sup-plied, through the life of him who died.
ev - er be graft - ed, root - ed, built in thee.

Let us pray.

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.

The Celebrant gives a final blessing.

Recessional: In Christ There is No East or West

Hymnal 1982, #529

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Dismissal

*Celebrant
People*

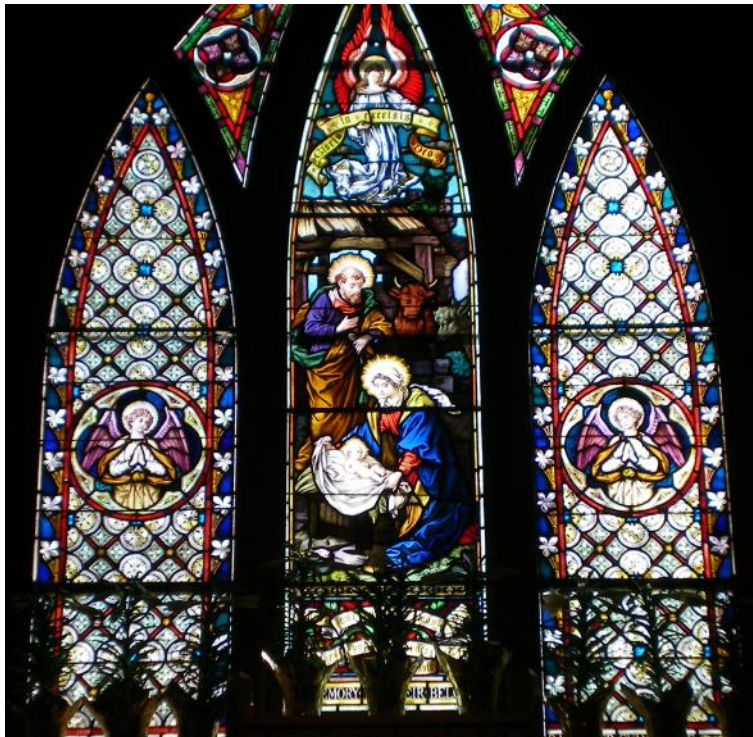
Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us at Church of the Nativity this morning.

Our Open Table Communion is being served at the Altar, and is brought to those with limited mobility in the pews. We are using the Common Cup. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

- 1) In coming to the altar rail the ushers will indicate how many to go to the altar at a time.
- 2) At the altar rail you may stand or kneel as you prefer. To receive a gluten free wafer, place one hand palm down over the other.
- 3) When receiving from the Common Cup, please help to guide the Cup by gently holding the base of the Cup.
- 4) Those not wishing to receive the wine may cross their arms over the chest and respond to the words, the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation, with “Amen”.
- 5) We are no longer using the practice of intinction (dipping the bread into the wine).



The Church of the Nativity: feeding body, mind, and soul

Growing in our discipleship to Jesus Christ through worship, study and service

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