

Order of Service for
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE NATIVITY



Orchard in Spring, 1881. Sisley, Alfred, 1839-1899. Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

May 18, 2025

10:30 A.M.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

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: Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymnal 1982, #516

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn long,
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

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 II, #241



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under rests. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests. There are also some unusual time signature changes, such as 3/4 and 4/4, which may be errors in the original document. The lyrics are: "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;"

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;



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 11:1-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised

men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

Psalm 148

The psalm is chanted together to the music below, with the forward slash in the psalm indicating to move to the next note.



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- 1 Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD from the /heavens; *
praise him in the /heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of /his; *
praise him, all his /host.

- 3 Praise him, sun and /moon; *
praise him, all you shining /stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of /heavens, *
and you waters above the /heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the /LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were cre/ated.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and /ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass a/way.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the /earth, *
you sea-monsters and all /deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and /fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his /will;
- 9 Mountains and all /hills, *
fruit trees and all /cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all /cattle, *
creeping things and winged /birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all /peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the /world;
- 12 Young men and /maidens, *
old and young to/gether.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the /LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and /heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal /servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Halle/lujah!

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from the Revelation to John:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are invited to stand for the presentation of the gospel.

Gradual: Open Our Eyes, Lord

Bob Cull



Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

Celebrant

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him,

God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Sermon

Silence

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,⁸the 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: “Now Thank We All Our God”

William Allen Pasch

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





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



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

Communion Hymn: For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Hymnal 1982, #341



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

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.



1 All who love and serve your ci - ty, all who
2 in your day of loss and sor - row, in your
3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
5 Ris - en Lord! shall yet the ci - ty be the



1 bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and
2 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace and love re -
3 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of
4 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that
5 ci - ty of de - spair? Come to - day, our Judge, our



1 jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,
2 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.
3 Je - sus, "I must work while it is day."
4 spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
5 Glo - ry; be its name, "The Lord is there!"

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

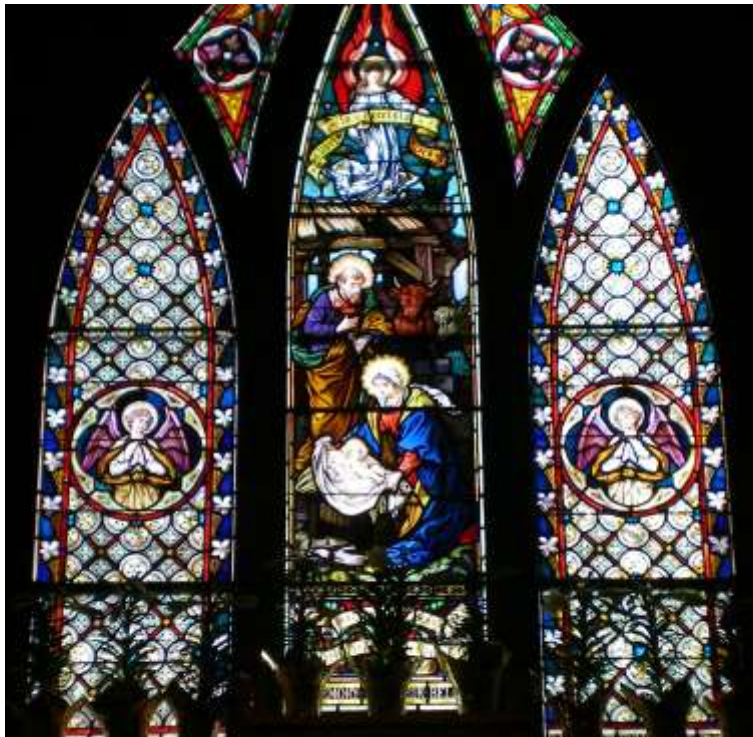
Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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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