

*Ascension*

*Episcopal Church*

*Welcomes you  
as we  
celebrate  
Christmas Eve  
together!*

*December 24, 2021, 7:00 PM*

*Holy Eucharist Rite II*

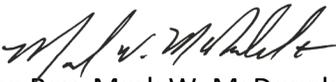
# Welcome

*You've found home.*

A church home, where whatever your background, however you see God today, no matter how challenging your journey is right now, you belong here.

At Ascension Episcopal Church, we strive to be a welcoming and safe place for all people to belong. We hope you encounter the radical love of God and the love of His church community right here. We're a multi-generational spiritual center, with grandparents, parents, singles, teens and children living out the central invitation from Jesus to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World. We smile a lot around here, and it's authentic! We believe that people desire relationships over religion; our Sunday services are engaging and hope-filled. And, I believe that fun and church worship are not mutually exclusive. Love and joy are the byproducts of life with God and with each other. Come see and experience the beauty and love of Christ with us.

Welcome home!



The Rev. Mark W. McDonald

Join us every **SUNDAY AT 10:30AM**. Your safety is our first priority. We worship at a social distance, wearing masks, sitting apart from other family groups, maintaining 6ft distances where able, and offering only the host during communion. We thank you for joining us and for following these guidelines to help all remain healthy.

Our **NURSERY** is available from 10 to noon on Sunday mornings. The safeguarded staff has undergone sanitizing training and maintain a safe environment for your children.

Join us online for **SUNDAY SCHOOL**. The lessons are sent out with the virtual link on Sunday morning's. If you are not receiving the emails, please verify your email with the secretary.

**Voices of small children are always welcome.  
Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.**



---

## Welcome Visitors

Please take a moment to let us know who you are!! Scan the QR code to the left and fill out the form. This will allow us to connect with you and get to know you and your family.

PRELUDE

O Holy Night

by Adolphe Adam  
arr. by James Nathaniel Holland

# The Word of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O  
 2 God from— God,— Light from Light e-ter-nal,—  
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,—  
 \*4 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,—  
 \*5 Child, for us sin-ners poor and in the man-ger,—



1 come ye, O come— ye to Beth-le-hem;  
 2 lo! he ab-hors— not the Vir-gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove;  
 4 leav-ing their flocks,— draw— nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em-brace— thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;  
 2 on-ly-be-got-ten Son— of the Fa-ther;  
 3 glo-ry to God,— glo-ry in the high-est;  
 4 we too will thith-er bend our joy-ful foot-steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov-ing us so dear-ly?

Refrain



O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-



dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

On the eve of our Christmas celebration, Jesus' birthday, we light all of the candles of the Advent wreath. First we light the candle for HOPE because Jesus is our hope. Second, we light the candle for PEACE because Jesus is our hope and peace. Third, we light the candle for JOY because Jesus brings joy. Fourth, we light the candle for LOVE because Jesus is love. Finally we light the center candle. This is the CHRIST candle. Jesus is born. Jesus has come. Jesus is our salvation.

Here is a reading from Galatians:

*“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law”—Galatians 4.4*

Let us pray: Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy babe. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to new life in him. In celebration of the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

## A BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God:

In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved,

the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*Presider and People*

*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,  
trial, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Presider:

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

*People            And also with you.*

Celebrant      Let us pray.

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.*

## The Lessons

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

*The people sit.*

A Lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<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 the nation,  
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>His authority shall grow continually,  
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.

People           *Thanks be to God.*

*Silence may follow.*

**CAROL**

*David's Royal City*

arr. by Hal Hopson

  
*Sung by the Ascension choir*  
*(Please Remain Seated)*

**SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-15**

*The people sit.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.

People           *Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. by Hal Hopson

  
*Sung by the Ascension choir*  
*(Please Remain Seated)*

**THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-56**

*The people sit.*

A reading from Luke.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."  
<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
People            *Thanks be to God.*

**CAROL**

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. by Hal Hopson

*Sung by the ~~Ascension~~ choir  
(Please Remain Seated)*

#### **FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:57-80**

*The people sit.*

A reading from Luke.

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."

<sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed.

<sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.



went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

## **THE SERMON - THE REV. MARK W. MCDONALD**

### **THE NICENE CREED - BCP P. 358**

*All stand.*

*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 - BCP P. 387**

*Stand or kneel as you are able.*

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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop;  
Andy, Hector, Kai (Kay) and Jeff, our bishops; Mark, our Rector and for all bishops,  
priests and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester our Mayor and for 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 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;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for: Cathie, Alice, Frances, Todd, Landon, John, Dion, Sandra, Jim, Albert, Cory, David, John, James, Greg, Wanda, Jack & Jean, Lucia, Jean, Bobby, Lance, Lucia, Barbara, Angela, Olive, Lance, Carissa, Kelley, Laura, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Mary, Mary, David, Ann, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

We invite you to offer your prayers and thanksgivings.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **THE PEACE - BCP P. 360**

*All stand.*

Celebrant      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People          And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **WELCOME**

# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Antonio Vivaldi

*Gloria in Excelsis*



*Sung by the Ascension choir  
(Please Remain Seated)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP p. 361

*The People remain standing.*

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 our thanks and praise.*

*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.

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 Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 S 129

*Holy, holy, holy*

POWELL

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven 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.\_\_\_\_\_

*The People stand or kneel.*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

*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.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*People and Celebrant*

*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,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

# The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM S 154

*Christ our Passover*

HURD

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who hope to love God more. So, come, you who have faith and you who have doubts. Come if you have been here often, and come if you have not been here long. Come if you have followed, and come if you have stumbled, Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is Christ's will that those who seek him will meet him here at God's table. Come!

### **AT THE COMMUNION**

At this time the wine is offered for intinction only. The ushers will instruct you to come forward. Fr. Mark will distribute the host and the cup will be passed for dipping. Please then return to your seat; we apologize that we cannot offer the altar rail for prayers at this time.

COMMUNION HYMN

*The First Noel*  
Soloist: Makayla King

THE FIRST NOWELL

COMMUNION HYMN 115

*What child is this, who, laid to rest*

GREENSLEEVES

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds  
guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

COMMUNION HYMN 100

CRADLE SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 \* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

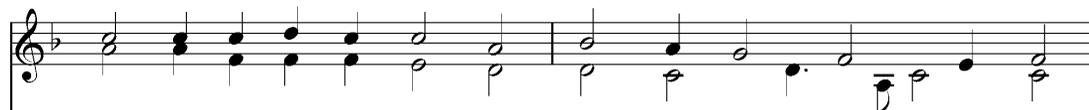
# COMMUNION HYMN 81

ES IST EIN ROS

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*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.*

**KNEELING HYMN***Silent night, holy night***STILLE NACHT**


Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

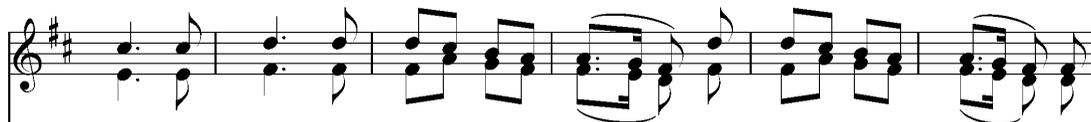
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 100***Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

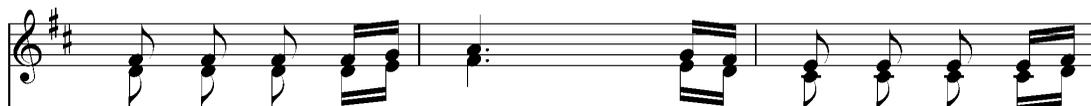
ANTIOCH



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**DISMISSAL**

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

**POSTLUDE**

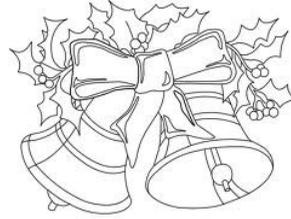
From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

*Go in peace, and*

*Have a  
Merry  
Christmas!*



*Join us:*

- • *Tomorrow at 10:30 am for the Christmas Day Service,*
- • *Sunday, December 26th, at 8am for Rite I and at 10:30 for our Rite II service, for the First Sunday after Christmas,*
- • *and January 2nd as we celebrate the Second Sunday after Christmas.*

## *Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

### **ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

2525 Seagler Road

Houston, TX 77042-3119

Telephone: 713-781-1330 Fax: 713-781-3207

[www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/AscensionHouston](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionHouston)

email: [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

*The Rev Mark W. McDonald, Rector*

*2525 Seagler Road, Houston, TX 77042-3119*

*Telephone: 713-781-1330*

*Email: [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)*

*[www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)*

---

*The Episcopal Diocese of Texas*

*[www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org)*

*The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop*

*The Rt. Rev. Hector F. Monterroso, Bishop Assistant*

