

A black and white illustration of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is kneeling on the right, holding the infant Jesus in her arms. The infant Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lies in a manger. To the left, a white donkey and a brown ox are looking towards the manger. The scene is set in a cave with rocky walls and a dark interior. The text is overlaid on the illustration.

**PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**in the Diocese of Bethlehem**

THE RIGHT REVEREND PAUL V. MARSHALL, BISHOP  
THE REVEREND JOHN MAJOR, RECTOR  
THE REVEREND JOHN S. PRATER, RECTOR EMERITUS

*Silent Night,  
Holy Night*

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24

11:00 PM

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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## ORGAN PRELUDES TO BE SELECTED FROM:

Gesu Bambino.....Pietro A. Yon  
Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella.....David Williams  
Noel from "Byzantine Sketches".....Henri Mulet  
Variations on "W Zlobie Jezie".....Alexandre Guilmant  
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring.....J.S. Bach  
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear.....Albert D. Schmutz  
Silent Night.....Charles Black  
Improvisation on "In The Beak Midwinter" & "Away In A Manger"

## THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* # 83 (verses 1,2,3)

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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.*

Glory to God - *Angels we have heard on high* # 96 verses 1,2,3

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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 LESSONS *(The people sit.)*

#### THE FIRST READING: *Isaiah 62:6-12*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense

before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**THE PSALM: *Psalm 97 Dominus regnavit***

*Please pray "Responsive Recitation" with the Reader and Congregation alternating by verse.*

Reader: The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

People: ***Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.***

A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

***His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.***

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

***The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.***

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before him, all you gods.

***Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.***

For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

***The LORD loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.***

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

***Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy Name.***

**THE SECOND READING: *Titus 3:4-7***

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

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Gradual Hymn: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice # 107***

**THE GOSPEL: *Luke 2:1-20*** (The People Stand)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

[In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and

laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## THE SERMON—The Reverend John Major

### THE NICENE CREED *(All Standing)*

*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** *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the believing community throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership, that they might always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the church gathered in this place, that we might always hear the Good News of God's living presence in our world, towards deepening of Christmas faith and living that faith in love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yokes of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war; and for all our brothers and sisters in any need, that the light and life that is the Lord might touch their hearts this night, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the homeless, and for the children both in the midst of poverty and pain, that there be room at the inn for all God's people. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the dying among us, and for those who care for them, that God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross might bless them this night with the gift of peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Celebrant: All loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your Son. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same Christ, newly born this night, our Lord and Savior, forever and ever. **Amen**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another saying, "The peace of the Lord be with you," or similar words.*

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## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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**OFFERTORY**—*The Assembly may be seated.*

"Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord."

*The ushers now come forward to accept the offering plates and begin to collect the people's gifts of treasures. The Gift Bearers also come forward at this time to present the people's gifts of bread and wine.*

**PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS**

**DOXOLOGY: PRAISE GOD #380 vs 3**

*Following the offertory selection please stand and sing Hymn #380, verse 3 only, as the people's treasure is presented.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING—Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

**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 him 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. (*Here a Proper Preface is said.*)

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:

### Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* (S130)

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

*The people kneel.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.*

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### FRACTION ANTHEM: CHRIST OUR PASSOVER (S164)

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. It consists of two staves of music in a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.' are written below the notes.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

*A period of silence is kept.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION INTERLUDE

*As the communion musical selection begins please walk the aisle and join with your sisters and brothers at the Table of the Lord to share in the Gifts of God for the People of God.*

### POST-COMMUNION HYMN: SILENT NIGHT #111

*After Holy Communion the lights are made dim and candlelight is distributed to the congregation by the Acolytes. All join then in the prayerful singing of Silent Night, Hymn # 111.*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.*

### BLESSING

**DISMISSAL**

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

**CLOSING HYMN: *JOY TO THE WORLD* #100**

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Following the hymn and as the candles are extinguished all are invited to kneel for a moment of silence and prayer and reflection.*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:** "Toccata" from the Fifth Organ Symphony.....C.M. Widor

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME & MERRY CHRISTMAS** Thank you for celebrating the gift of Christmas with us this evening. We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas Season!

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** The Church Office will be closed for the holiday and vacation until Tuesday January 5th. In case of emergency you may contact Father Major at 654.3261 or Jennifer Martin at 675.9528.

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** Please remember that according to IRS regulations, all contributions and pledge payments must be received in the church office by December 31 in order to be credited towards 2009.

**MINISTERS**

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<b>Celebrant</b>	The Reverend John Major
<b>Organist</b>	Bernard Gardzalla
<b>Soloist</b>	Tiffany Zehner
<b>Lector / Intercessor</b>	Carl Goeringer
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Carl Goeringer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ryan & Jim Monk
<b>Ushers / Oblationers</b>	Patti Harabin & Beverly Cushner

*The Greening of the Church  
is dedicated to the glory of Almighty God*

*In loving memory of:*

*Norman & Mary Wildoner and Frank & Dolores Piazza by Louis & Rosemary Piazza*

*Donald and Florence Atkinson by the Atkinson Family*

*Joe Hunt by Sandy Hunt*

*Ed Roth by Pauline Roth*

*David C Wright by the Wright Family*

*Larry Carson by Jean Carson.*

*Henry Todd by Beverly Todd*

*In thanksgiving:*

*Christine Sutton by her family.*

*Minda, Ryan, husband George and children Cori & Tara by Therese Gwilliam*

By: Liz and Dan Plashinski, George and Edna Yatsko, Dennis & Jan Llewellyn,  
Ann Russin

*The Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary is dedicated to  
World Peace and putting Christ back in Christmas,  
by Dan & Liz Plashinski*

# *The 2009 Christmas Flowers*

*In loving memory of:*

*Martin, Anna Russell, May, Katharine and Mary Ann by The Wenrich Family*

*Carl Goeringer, Sr. by Grace Goeringer & Family*

*Jean Monk by the Monk Family*

*The Valli & Major Family by Father John & Sandy Major*

*Edwin T. Roth by Pauline & Jim Roth*

*The Arch and Eppley Families by Mr & Mrs Raymond Eppley*

*Mary Plashinski & LeeAnn Tonolli by Dan & Liz Plashinski*

*Jack and Emily Jillson by their daughter, Mary Jillson-Stout*

*Thomas Heffernan and Dr & Mrs William J Daw by Alice Heffernan & Family*

*Henry & Bernice Todd, Lorimer & Miriam Wriglesworth and Henry Todd III by the Todd Family*

*Verna & Jack Sheehan by Sandy & Lynn Sheehan & Family*

*John F. Sheehan, Jr. by the Sheehan Family*

*Anna & August Strazdus by Sandy & Lynn Sheehan & Family and Karen Spudis*

*William Cushner, Frances Sharp, Rose Meneeley by Beverly A Cushner*

*Guy & Ann Llewellyn by Denny Llewellyn*

*Joseph Hunt by Sandra Hunt*

*Justine Martin, Deatra Martin, Emery & Cornelia Havrilla and Willard Sutton  
by the Martin & Sutton Families*

*Hilda Frey, Mr & Mrs Michael Kasarda, Charlene Chung by The Kasarda Family*

*Carl Goeringer Sr, by Carl Goeringer Jr & Grace Goeringer*

*In loving honor of:*

*Charles & Jane Arnold by Denny Llewellyn*

*The Ministry of the Reverend Christine Sutton by the Martin Family*

*In thanksgiving:*

*By George & Edna Yatsko*

*The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of Almighty God in memory of  
Dale Jones and Ethel & Robert Riemensnyder by Carol Jones.*