

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2025 AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK A.M.



ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2300 CATHEDRAL AVE—WASHINGTON, D.C.



The Rev. Sara E. Palmer, Rector

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Merry Christmas! We are thankful for your presence with us this morning and we invite you to join us as we worship God. The liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the music from the blue Hymnal 1982 and the beige African American Heritage Hymnal (AAHH). The “S” music is found in the service section in the front of the Blue Hymnal. All books are found in the pew racks.

Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.

If you are a visitor, please fill out a visitor card and give to an usher.

Also, please introduce yourself to our rector, Mother Sara Palmer after the service.

She would love to meet you and learn your name!

She may be contacted at rector@allsoulsdc.org or 202-232-4244, ext. 2.

MISSION OF ALL SOULS

The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.

CHRISTMASTIDE

The Church celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ for **twelve days**, beginning on Christmas Eve and continuing through the Day of Epiphany, January 6. During this time we look for ways in which the “Word has become flesh” through sacrament, through word and song, and through silence.

CHRISTMAS CONTINUES

December 28

Christmas I, 11 am

Holy Eucharist

with organ, soloist and hymns

January 4

Feast of the Epiphany, 11 am

Holy Eucharist

with organ and choir

photo on front cover:

*The Nativity — “On earth peace
good will toward men”* All Souls
church window in the Transept.

allsoulsdc.org

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.

VOLUNTARY

Please stand.

A Rose Breaks into Bloom

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

HYMN 83 *vs. 1, 3, 5, 6 (Blue Hymnal)*

Sung by all.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant **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.***

HYMN 96 *(Blue Hymnal)*

Sung by all.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray,

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,

together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see

the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm

before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see

the salvation of our God.

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

HYMN AAHH 202 (*Beige Hymnal*)
Sung by all.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

PSALM 98

Cantate Domino

Said responsively by verse.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-12

LONG AGO GOD SPOKE TO OUR ANCESTORS IN MANY AND VARIOUS WAYS BY THE PROPHETS, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the world. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

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

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

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

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

The people sit.

SERMON

The Rev. Sara E. Palmer, Rector

A brief time of silent reflection is kept after the sermon.

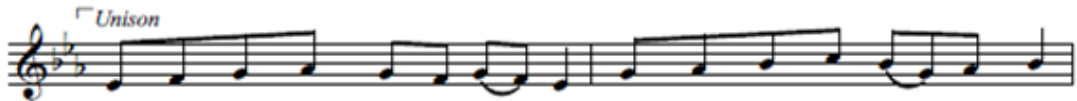
The people stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

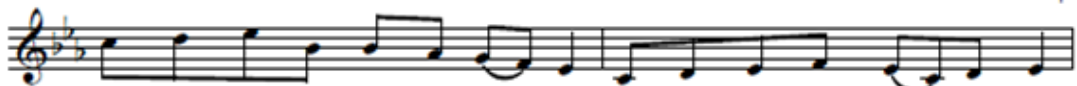
Sung by all.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when a vir - gin, blest with grace,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
4 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther and the Spir - it, there shall be



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga he the source, the end - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
- whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and the shout of ju - bi - lee:



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred
- now he shines, the long ex - spect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion and e - ter - nal vic - to -



see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
- Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

The people remain standing.

THE NICENE CREED

All

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

<i>Leader</i>	Let us pray to Jesus our Savior. Christ, born in a stable, give shelter to all who are homeless. <i>Silence. Jesus, Savior,</i>
<i>People</i>	<i>Hear our prayer.</i>
<i>Leader</i>	Christ, for whom the angels sang, give comfort to all who weep. <i>Silence. Jesus, Savior,</i>
<i>People</i>	<i>Hear our prayer.</i>
<i>Leader</i>	Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. <i>Silence. Jesus, Savior,</i>
<i>People</i>	<i>Hear our prayer.</i>

Leader Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Silence. Jesus, Savior,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Silence. Jesus, Savior,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Hear now our individual and specific prayers, for those we name aloud and those we name in the silence of our hearts. *Silence.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

O LORD OUR GOD, ACCEPT THE FERVENT PRAYERS OF YOUR PEOPLE; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel.

All **MOST MERCIFUL GOD,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The people stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

The Celebrant gives an Offertory sentence.

The offering plate will be passed by the ushers. You may also donate by texting ALLSOULS to 73256, or by scanning the QR code.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gesu, Bambino

Pietro a. Yon (1886-1943)

*1 When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at his blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.*

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

*2 Again the heart with rapture glows,
To greet the holy night,
That gave the earth its Christmas Rose,
Its King of love and light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name,
The grateful chorus swell;
From Paradise to earth he came
That we with him might dwell.*

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 him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant 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 130

Sung by all.

Schubert

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.

The people kneel.

Celebrant 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."

All Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant 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. *AMEN.*

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

All *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.*

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

FRACTION ANTHEM S 164

Schubert

Sung by all

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The people may sit or remain kneeling.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the chalice, gently guide the base of the chalice with your hand to allow the rim to reach your lips. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the bread) into the common chalice. Receiving in one kind is full communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your arms across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

HYMN 115 (*Blue Hymnal*)
Sung by all.

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Celebrant

Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel this way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN 100 (*Blue Hymnal*)
Sung by all.

Joy to the world!

Antioch

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Noel with Variations

Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)





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