SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Eve

24 DECEMBER 2025
FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Saint John's Church, Mobile

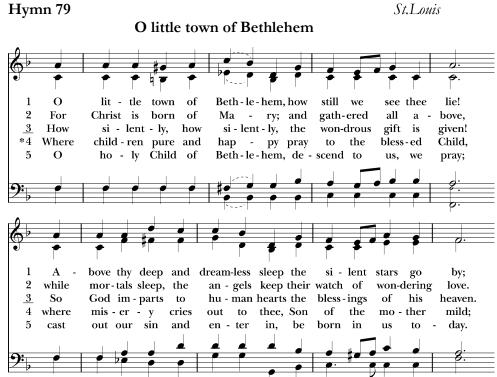
Welcome to Saint John's! If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's or becoming a member of our community, please speak with our priest or call the church office at (251) 479-5474. Our office hours are 9-2pm on Tuesdays. Outside of office hours, or in the event of a pastoral need, you can reach out to Father John Talbert at 205-354-3699. You can also contact us through our website, www.stjohnsmobile.org.

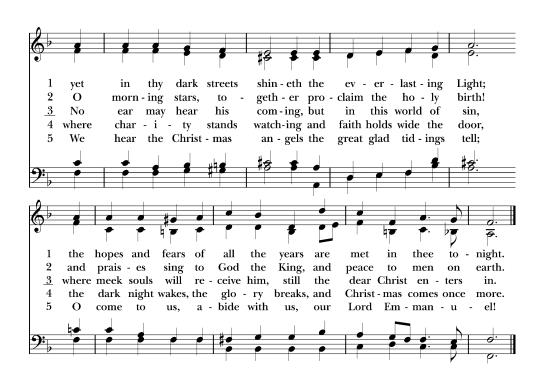
ABOUT THE MASS

Christians began celebrating Mass on Christmas Eve in the fifth century. Christmas Eve Masses are among the most beloved services of the year for most Christians.

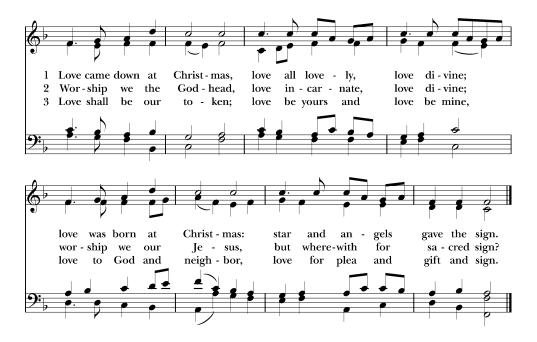
Our celebration of the birth of Our Savior begins with carols for congregation and choir and anthems by the choir.

Music for Choir and Congregation





Love came down at Christmas

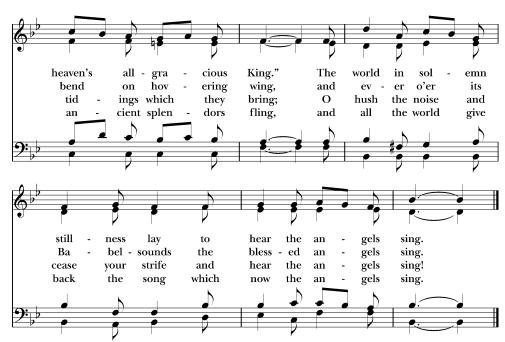




Words: Traditional carol. Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

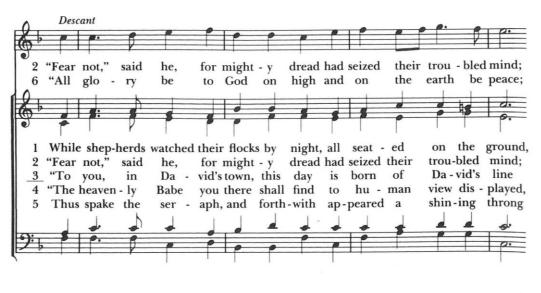
Hymn 89 Carol

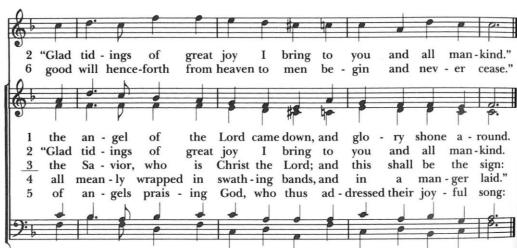




Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

While shepherds watched their flocks by night





6 "All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."

Prelude

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Song

All stand at introduction to the entrance hymn. The Congregation sings the hymn as the choir and ministers of the assembly enter.

Hymn 83 Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful

(see next page)





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says the following, and the people respond.

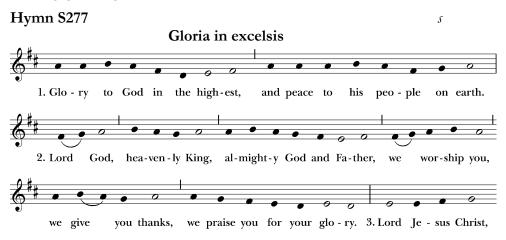
Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

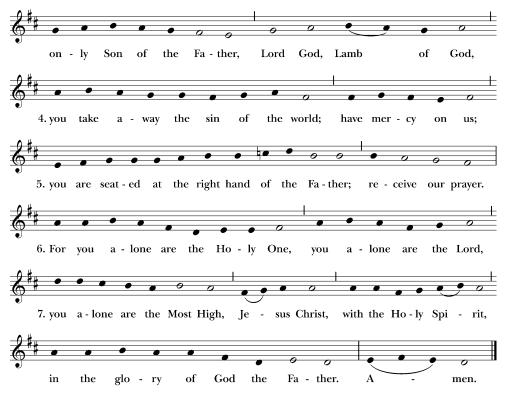
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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

The Congregation sings the Gloria





Music: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people remain standing for the Collect of the Day.

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 222

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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 Readings

The People are seated. The first lesson, Isaiah 62:6-12, is now read

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 Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The congregation sings Psalm 97



- 1 The Lord is King;
 - let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, * righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him * and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; * the earth sees it and is afraid.

- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the **Lord**, * at the presence of the Lord of the whole **earth**.
- 6 The heavens declare his **righteousness**, * and all the peoples see his **glory**.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false **gods!** *
 Bow down before him, all you **gods.**
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, * because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord, most high over all the **earth**; * you are exalted far above all **gods**.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate **evil**; * he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the **wicked**.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the **righteous**, * and joyful gladness for those who are true**hearted**.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you **righteous**, * and give thanks to his holy **Name**.

The second lesson, Titus 3:4-7, is now read

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 Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 91

Ermuntre dich

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly night

(see next page)



Words: Johann Rist (1607-1667); ver. *Hymnal 1982*. Music: *Ermuntre dich*, melody Johann Schop (d. 1665?), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Christmas Pageant and the Holy Gospel

The Sermon

The Reverend John Talbert

BCP p. 358

The Nicene Creed

The People stand as the Celebrant stands and all join in saying:

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

All may stand or sit. A minister bids these prayers of the assembly:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Receive unto 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.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

The Peace

The Celebrant says

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Congregation may be seated for the announcements.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Congregation is seated for the Offertory

Choir Offertory

Christmas Lullaby

John Rutter

The Congregation stands and sings the Presentation Hymn while the ushers bring forward the people's gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts.

Hymn 380

Old 100th

All people that on earth do dwell

Vs 3 only

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

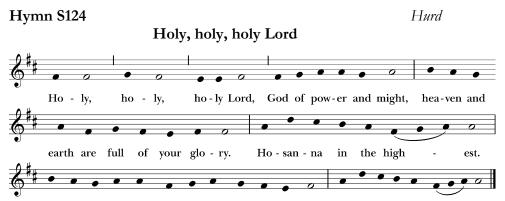
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950), Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or sit. Then the Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues

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 and 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.

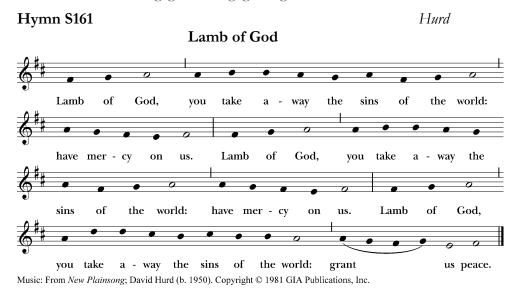
People **AMEN**

The Celebrant says

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.

The Celebrant leads the Congregation in singing the Agnus Dei.



The Invitation

The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion.

WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE LORD'S TABLE

IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Persons who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing.

After receiving communion, the Congregation may be seated. Please join in singing the communion hymn

Hymn 112 Cranham

In the bleak mid-winter

(see next page)



Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 366

The Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People. The People respond **Amen.**

The Congregation stands and sings the retiring processional hymn

Hymn 111 Stille nacht

Silent night

(see next page)



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

The Dismissal

The Celebrant dismisses the saying

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S:

Today, Dec. 24. 4:00PM Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve

5:15PM Fellowship time in the Great Hall

Thurs., Dec.25 11:00AM Holy Eucharist Christmas Day

Next Sunday, Dec. 28 10:00AM Holy Communion: Christmas 1

11:15AM Fellowship time in the Great Hall

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are given by
Kathe Gieseler
to the glory of God
and in loving memory of
Ruth Love Morgret

THE POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS ARE IN THE INSERT

RECENT ATTENDANCE:

36	November 30, Advent 1
37	December 7, Advent 2
35	December 14, Advent 3

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

We lift up to you members of this church family, especially:

Bootsie Cieutat, Eddy Velaski, Julie Garner, Pat Fulford, Marie Brown, Neva Bache, David Rich, Bob Anderson, Helen Guthrie, Mike and Frances Barbour, Carolyn Pearce, Ashley Garris, Jayson Chestang, and Mary Catherine Warren.

We pray for our family and friends, especially:

Steve and Janice Garner, Frank Brown, JoAnn McPhearson, Chris Lion, Jeff Bishop, Colin Guthrie, Alilee Pillman, Sheila Velaski, Andy Williams, Nadine Evans, Calvert Johnson, Brenda Goolsby, Larry DeBert, Anne Redd, Donnie Chestang, Louis Bell, Lester Taylor: Emily Brown, Dennis Clardy, Sarah Guthrie, Morris Levy, Joey Adams, Judy Lynch, John Knight, Adam Strong, Angie Leon, David Hamilton, Sheila Cassity Granger, Barbara Bonner, David Brunner, Mary Horner, Susan Hansen, Karl Gieseler, Randy Dunn, Sharon Lee Nolan, Peggy Sheffield, Eddie Hun, Katelynn Tillman, Karen Twilley, Nancy Payne, Donna Pigg, Betty Williams, Latecia Cushion Knight, Bonnie Jernigan, Britney Butler, Neal Tourné, Sandy Michel, Paul Nelson.

THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN'S

The Rt. Reverend J. Russell. Kendrick, Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Reverend John Talbert, Rector (frjohn@stjohnsmobile.org)
Mr. Louis F. Daniel, organist & choir director (music@stjohnsmobile.org)
Ms. Kathe Gieseler, financial secretary (finance@stjohnsmobile.org)
Dr. Nikki Shaw, office volunteer (office@stjohnsmobile.org)

THE VESTRY AND WARDENS OF ST. JOHN'S

Class of 2026: Ms. Helen Guthrie. *and* Ms. Kathe Gieseler, *clerk* Class of 2027: Ms. Connie McLean, *senior warden, and* Mr. Eddy Velaski. Class of 2028: Mr. Hugh Tomlin, *junior warden, and* Ms. Janet Buckley and Ms. Cindy Gass, *treasurer*.