

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 – 7 PM
The Holy Eucharist – Rite II



919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092
saintmattsec.org
Rev. Rodney Roehner

Prelude

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Opening Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

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

The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity

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.**

The following is said in unison

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant 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.
People **Amen.**

The Lessons *Please be seated*

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-12 (read responsively by whole verse)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

New Testament

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence

Away in a Manger

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **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.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon (*seated*)

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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For Daniel our Bishop; for Rodney our priest; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For Donald our President, Joseph our President-elect, for Thomas our Governor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For this city of Maple Glen; for all of Montgomery and Bucks Counties, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering; especially Pam, Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Dorothea, Bob, Kathy, and all those with the coronavirus, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For this parish of St. Matthew's and our school; that we may serve God faithfully, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all those who serve our nation in the armed forces, and for their families.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives; especially for persecuted Christians, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially Dorothea Blenk, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

General Confession

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

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 Peace *(all stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.**

The Celebrant continues

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:

Then is said in unison

**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 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,

Celebrant and People

**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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, 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. **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Holy Communion

Spiritual Communion – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in Thy Love. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Silent Night

Post-Communion 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.

The Celebrant says the following blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Service Hymn

Joy to the World

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**



We invite you to make a small pilgrimage to our church through this weekend to encounter our outdoor nativity scene, and to share the light of Christ with members of our community.

Please arrive with a gift of a non-perishable food donation for a local food pantry. Bins will be provided.

Opportunities for All

Parents can interact with their children at our outdoor nativity, complete with the figures of Christmas. Kids can lay out hay for our stable guests, scoop gifts of “frankincense and myrrh,” and lead a beautiful family prayer.

All are invited to pray devotions provided at the stable, and to take some Epiphany chalk and prayers home with you!

Lifelong Learning Adult Forum:

The Adult Forum will be joining with many other Episcopal parishes during Epiphany, reading the Gospel of Mark. Organized by Forward Movement, the Gospel is divided into daily readings, which we will be discussing in our education hour on Sunday mornings. You can find more information

@ www.goodbookclub.org. Please join us! <https://tinyurl.com/LLLForum>

Here is a listing of the dates and the verses covered:

January 3 - introduction and Mark 1

January 10 - Mark 2 through Mark 4

January 17- Mark 5:1-7:13

January 24 - Mark 7:14-9:32

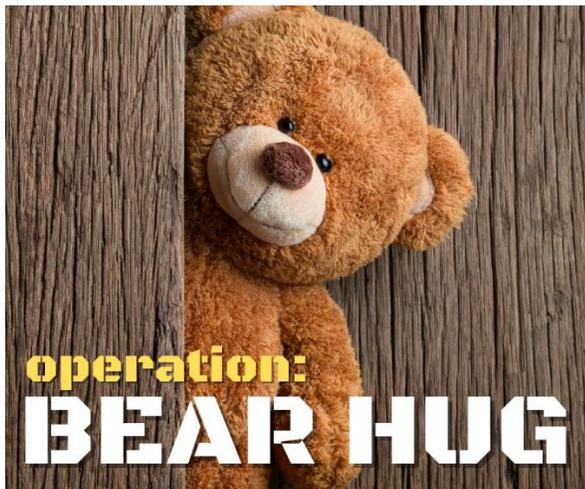
January 31- Mark 9:33-11:33

February 7 - Mark 12:1-14:11

February 14 - Mark 14:12 - 16:20 (end)

Help Father Rodney Get to Know You!

Given the current pandemic situation, it isn't safe to hold the kind of in-person gatherings that we would like with our new rector. Help Father Rodney put faces to names by sending him an email at rector@saintmattsec.org with photos of you and your family!



OPERATION BEAR HUG UPDATE

Thank you, thank you!! Over **575** (!!) bears were collected to share with seniors and hospital patients this Christmas. Many parts of our broader community came together to make this happen, including our Nursery School, and friends and family of members of our congregation.

Many thanks also to those who worked so hard to meet these goals. Please visit our website for photos: www.saintmattsec.org

2021 Pledge Envelopes

If you requested pledge envelopes, they are now available in a bin at the top of the steps outside the narthex double doors.



*Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.
Math 6:21*

My Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____