

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST Christmas Day 10:00 AM



DECEMBER 25, 2024

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY OF THE HARBOR
PROVINCETOWN

Where the Land, the Sea, and the Sacred Meet

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

Louis Vierne **Prelude** Berceuse

Welcome

**Gathering Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymnal #83

Verses 1-3, 6

# **Opening Acclamation**

Presider: Blessed be God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

# The Collect for Purity

People: 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.

Gloria Angels We have Heard on High Hymnal #96

Verses 1 & 4

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

# Collect of the day

Presider: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Presider: 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.

**First Reading:** *Isaiah* 9:2-7

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 96

Read responsively by half verse

Sing to the LORD a new song; \* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

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

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

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

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

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.

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

He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel; Verse 3 after the Gospel



Gospel: Luke 2:1--20

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Christmas Sermon The Rev. Brian Raiche

The Creed I Believe In God Almighty WLP #768

### Prayers of the People

Presider: Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect refugees. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

On this Christmas Day, we remember all those on our parish prayer list: Stella Mae Bird, Mark Ward, Richard Keeling, Joan Boudreau, Ken Barry, Towanda deNagy, Priscilla McChesney, Ollie Ahmuty, Joan Walter, Chelsea Diaz, Steve Moore, Nick Craciun, William Goodbody, John Kelly, and all those listed on our Parish Prayer List. And for those who are known to us in our hearts, those known only to you, and for those whose names are spoken on our lips: (*You are invited to offer your own intentions aloud or silently*). Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

As your Son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. We remember especially those who are not with us this for the first time this Christmas.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Presider: God of endless ages, we keep vigil for the dawn of salvation and the birth of your Son. With gratitude we recall his humanity and the life he shared with the children of earth. May the power of his divinity help us answer his call to love and life. We ask this through Christ our newborn King. **Amen.** 

The prayers are concluded with hymn # 608, verse 1

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave, who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

### The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

# LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### **Invitation:**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Preparation of the Table

Scottish Noel

Alexandre Guilmant



# The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer III (From Enriching Our Worship)

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

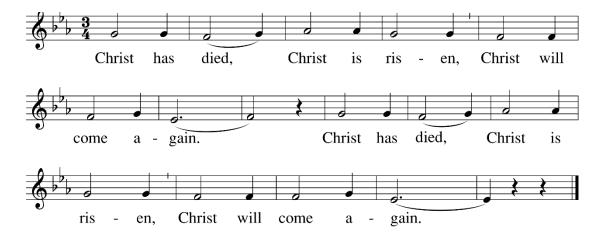
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:



Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with Blessed Mary and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever:



The Lord's Prayer Traditional Form

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

Presider: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

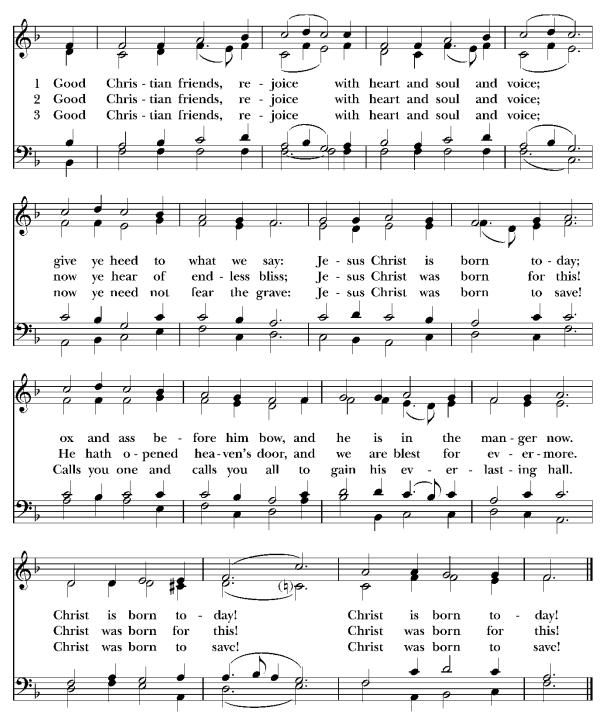
### **Fraction Anthem:**



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It has been made ready for those who love God and for those who hope to love God more. So, 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 his table. For in this house which bears the name Mary, all are welcome to share the one she bore, Jesus the Bread of Life.



Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Enriching Our Worship

Presider: Let us pray

People: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and with one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

# The Blessing

Presider: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

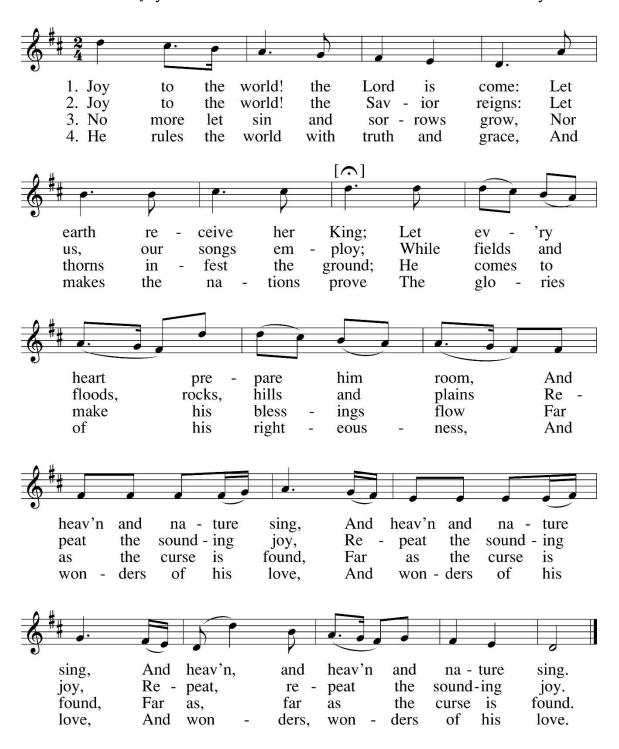
May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** 

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 forever. **Amen.** 

Recessional Joy to the World Hymnal #100



Text: Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: ANTIOCH, CM: arr. from George F. Handel, 1685, 1759, in T.

Tune: ANTIOCH, CM; arr. from George F. Handel, 1685-1759, in T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833

### **Dismissal**

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Postlude Noel with Variations

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF/ IN HONOR OF

Betsy Corvene In memory of Peg Williams and the Rev. John R. Williams

Rosemary Otocka In memory of Ruth V. Clark and Ronald J. Clark

Priscilla Jackett In memory of Anthony Jackett, Pete & Priscilla Francis

Carolyn Smith In memory of Thomas Thomasian

Shawn Fiedler In thanksgiving for all ye faithful at St. Mary of the Harbor

and for your joyful and triumphant ministry

Brian Raiche and Loren Lee

Pauline and Ernest Raiche

In memory of Rita Dargie and Germaine Raiche

Scott and Mary Fry In memory of Charles and Carol Westcott, Charles Westcott,

Jr., and Francis and Lois Fry

Katharine Bachman and

Elizabeth Gawron

In memory of the Gawron Family, Christine Kosciolek, Jeanne Bachman, Peg Doherty, John Comerford, Michael

Ward

Mary-Jo Avellar In memory of Duane Steele and Justin and Mary Avellar

Martha Wilson In memory of Catherine Stephan McCune, Joseph Cooper

McCune, Rev. D. D. Snider Stephan, Martha Baumer Stephan

Cynthia M. Conroy In memory of my parents Mr. and Mrs. A. Gordon

Stephenson

Padric Meagher In memory of Bobby Taylor

Julia Perry In memory of my parents John and Rowie Perry

Carol and Richard Pesiri In memory of the Anderson Family and the Pesiri Family

Thomas Thaler In memory of Grace Yeomans Thaler

thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren

# Announcements

# A Commitment to Outreach – Thanksgiving/Christmas Appeal

This year the Outreach Committee voted and approved by the Vestry to designate 100% of this offering to Lower Cape Outreach Council. This 40-year-old 501c3 organization is based in Orleans providing short-term emergency food, clothing and financial assistance to residents of the 8 towns that constitute Lower Cape Cod: Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, and Wellfleet. Place your gift in the collection plate on Sundays between now and Christmas, payable to St Mary of the Harbor, designated on the memo line to Thanksgiving/Christmas 2024. Donations may also be made on our website.

#### Winter Lunches

Twenty-five years ago a group of St. Mary's parishioners came up with the idea for a Community Lunch Ministry. Recognizing that winters can be long and bleak on the Cape, this ministry provides a much needed outlet for people to get out of the house and come together as neighbors. Each Saturday at noon during the months of January and February, parishioners from St. Mary of the Harbor cook and serve a homemade lunch to approximately 75 people. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. The menu changes each Saturday and occasionally there is musical entertainment. Your help is welcome. A sign-up sheet is located on the credenza near the bulletin board or you may contact the parish office.

# Strength for the Journey

As a strong outreach for St. Mary of the Harbor, Our Strength for the Journey service is emailed through the country or we meet in person during the summer season. For further information, please contact Carolyn Smith at <a href="mailto:carjans@charter.net">carjans@charter.net</a> or Gerri Spinella at <a href="mailto:gerri.spinella@gmail.com">gerri.spinella@gmail.com</a>.

### Helping our Women (HOW)

Peer Support Group: Tuesdays 11:00AM-12:30 PM (Parish Hall)

# A.A. Support Groups

Nicholson Hall: Monday 7:00 P.M; Tuesday 6:00 P.M.; Wednesday 6:30 P.M.

### **UU Food Pantry**

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect donations for the "Little Free Pantry" hosted by our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. That pantry provides non-perishable grocery and toiletry items for anyone in need. Please consider picking up an extra item or two when you shop. Items may be left in the basket by the baptismal font at any time. Please, no perishables, **no glass containers** and please check expiration dates. The Pantry cannot use expired items.

### **Parish Prayer List**

In addition to the names listed in the Prayers of the People, we pray for healing and comfort for:

Family and Friends: Roger Ashe, Joan Russell, Jim Neely and Ann English, Kent Taylor, Margo Kent, Michael Mason, Donna Pickener, Marcia McClure, Marsha Davies, Carol Studley, Marge and Donna, Patty Davenport, Scotty Townsend, Barbara Crawford, Christian Hagerty, Steven Moore, Barbara Hammond, Elizabeth Mason

# Stay in touch with St. Mary's

Many of our most active members do not live here full-time. There are several ways to participate and keep in touch throughout the year: Sign our guest book with your contact information; Watch our weekly livestream on YouTube; Sign up for our Weekly e-newsletter.

### **Vestry Officers**

Sharon Inger, Senior Warden srwarden@stmaryoftheharbor.org

John Carroll-Yagel, Junior Warden jrwarden@stmaryoftheharbor.org

John Loftin, Treasurer treasurer@stmaryoftheharbor.org

Brendan O'Neill, Clerk clerk@stmaryoftheharbor.org

### **Vestry Members**

Mary-Jo Avellar Kathy Bachman Phil Franchini Alex Glowacki Anita McGahan Janet Whelan

# This Sunday's Leadership

• Crucifer: Brendan O'Neill

• First Reader (First Reading and Psalms): Chris Rodenhaver

• Second Reader (Second Reading): Scott Yagel

• Healer: Mary-Jo Avellar

• Ushers: Scott Yagel and Harry Ellsworth

• Altar Guild: Priscilla Jackett

• Livestream: John Carroll-Yagel

# THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY OF THE HARBOR

517 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657

# Welcome to St. Mary of the Harbor

Here at St. Mary's, we welcome you with open arms and open hearts, to share with you the love with which Christ has welcomed us. Whoever you are, wherever you may be in life, there is a place for you here. In this beautiful place, you will find sojourners like yourself who are searching for truth, meaning, and purpose. And we invite you to explore and experience the gift of God's love in this place where the land, the sea, and the sacred meet.

Everything you need to guide you through today's service will be found in this bulletin, or in the hymnals in the chair just in front of you.

# Land Acknowledgement

At St. Mary's, we remember the Nauset and Wampanoag people on whose unceded land we now gather. We acknowledge the injustice done to them. We give thanks for their witness to living honorably and in balance with the sacred order. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants.

The Rev. Brian Raiche, Rector revbrian@stmaryoftheharbor.org
Cell: (508) 717-9002

The Rev. Bruce Mason, Deacon Bill Carlson, Music Director

Julia Perry, Office Manager office@stmaryoftheharbor.org

Office Hours: Tuesday (9-12), Wednesday (1-5 pm), Friday (9-12, 1-5 pm)

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