

Saint James' Episcopal Church
Order of Worship
Christmas Day



Saint James' Episcopal Church
37051 Cabrillo Terrace
Fremont, California
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Welcome to St. James' Episcopal Church

We are a community who invites all people to join in worship. Our primary sacrament of initiation into the Church is the sacrament of Holy Baptism. If you wish to follow Christ, or if you wish to deepen your exploration of the sacred, you are encouraged to speak to a clergy person about baptism or about your own spiritual path and where it is leading you.

If you are visiting us, please introduce yourself at the door. We invite you to fill out a visitor's card and put it in the offertory plate or hand it to an usher. The card can be found in the pew.

On behalf of the vestry and rector of St. James', Merry Christmas!

Our Liturgy and the Season of Christmas

The Episcopal way of worshipping has been in existence for centuries, and closely follows the ancient rites of the early church. Our primary texts are the Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version, and the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. If there are things about our worship that are new to you or do not make sense, be patient with the unfamiliarity. Consider that you are entering a conversation with God and the faithful which began centuries before we were here and will continue after we are gone. Just join in as you are, and bear with us as we are, and we will all be changed as we go.

The Christmas Season begins with the celebration of the birth of Christ, and extends until the Season of Epiphany, marking the traditional twelve days of Christmas. Unlike popular culture, it is during the day of and the days following Christmas Eve that we sing Christmas Hymns and celebrate the season, thus marking the Twelve Days of Christmas. Our service is shaped to point to the incarnation of God in the form of the Christ child and the emergence of light in this world.

Please stand as the hymn begins and the altar party enters the sanctuary.

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

see insert

The Acclamation

Celebrant
People

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Collect for 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*

Gloria

S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect for the Day

see insert

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

People Amen.

The First Reading

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

Psalm

see insert

The Second Reading

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

Gospel Hymn: Angels we have heard on high



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?



Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Reading of the Gospel

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

after the reading of the Gospel

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

3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.; Music: *Gloria*, French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958) Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

Dear family in Christ, in the peace of God all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Lord hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, to the despairing, and the mourning.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this day might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

the celebrant concludes with a collect:

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this day by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace your promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this day and forever. Amen

The Passing of the Peace

The "passing of the peace," based on ancient rites of the early church, allows the community to gracefully greet one another by saying "the peace of Christ be with you", or simply "peace be with you"; the response is typically "and also with you."

Offertory Hymn

see insert

As you are able, please stand as the offerings are brought to the table and we sing the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

All who desire to may receive Holy Communion.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And al - so 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.

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:

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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.

Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*; Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Copyright © 1971, 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

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

,
Presider and People

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

The Presider 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 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 God, 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

Celebrant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

When prompted by the usher, please come forward for communion. If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the clergy or eucharistic minister, and a blessing will be given.

Communion Hymn

see insert

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

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 the 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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

see insert

The Dismissal

Celebrant

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

12/2022