



Christmas Day

WORSHIP BULLETIN | WINTER 2025

ST JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH || FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

WELCOME to SAINT JAMES'

We are a community that 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 either place it in the offertory plate or hand it to an usher. You can also sign the visitor book as you exit the church. Join us in food and fellowship in the parish hall afterward.

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. 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 Christ's birth, and extends until the Season of Epiphany. 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.

In the Catechism found in the Prayer Book, it says the following about Christ's incarnation:

- Q. Why did he [Jesus] take our human nature?
- A. The divine Son became human, so that in him human beings might be adopted as children of God, and be made heirs of God's kingdom.

THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

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.*

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and truth, whose word brings light to birth in the heart of a darkening world which seeks a love it cannot name: may flesh be blessed and born anew by a truth which leaves the heavens and walks the waiting earth; through Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate. *Amen.*

FIRST READING

See Insert

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM

See Insert

SECOND READING

See Insert

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL HYMN

H96, V.1-2 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:20-31

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

After the Gospel, the following is said

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

GOSPEL HYMN

H96, V.3-4 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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 day. 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.***

Officiant God of light 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

H87 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

For quick access to our giving page to make a donation to the ministries of our church, scan the QR code to the right with your mobile device's camera.



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.

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 God thanks and praise.*

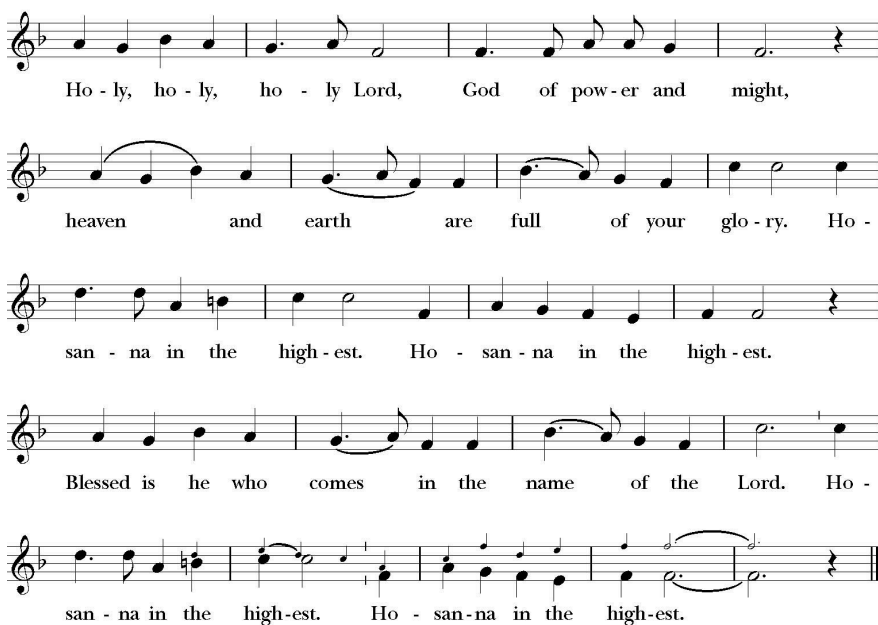
Celebrant

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

S125



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.



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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People & Celebrant

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 James 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.*

FRACTION RITE

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People *Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia.*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

H99 *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

When invited by the usher, please come forward for communion. We are offering both bread and wine. At our 10:30 service, we use baked bread in place of communion wafers. Gluten free wafers are available; please notify the clergy prior to the service.

For the wine, we will be receiving from the common cup. In other words, we will all drink from the same chalice. We are not offering intinction (dipping the host/bread). *If you prefer to have the bread only, simply cross your arms* in front of the chalice as a sign to the eucharistic minister that you prefer to not receive the wine. They will then offer you the words, "The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation" as a sign of blessing.

If you would like a blessing rather than receiving communion, you are invited to come forward. Instead of receiving the elements, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

People & Celebrant

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

H100 *Joy to the World*

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*