

# **Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church**

A GROWING COMMUNITY OF LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE

*Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.  
Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now  
through Jesus Christ. Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my  
family, and you have a place in it".*

## **Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Rite II**

*December 24, 2024*

*5:30 pm*



**Preludes: sung by Criss Nieman**      *Euphonium Solo*  
**Choir sings:** *Born this day in Bethlehem*

**Opening Hymn: 83**      *O come all ye faithful*

## **Christmas Eve**

*Stand as you are able*

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

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

### **Collect for Purity**

Worship Leader:

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 Gloria Hymn # S280**

**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**

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Worship Leader 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.**

## The Word of God

### The Lessons

*All are seated*

#### Isaiah 9: 2-7

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* ***Thanks be to God.***

#### Psalm 96

*read responsively by the half verse*

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song;

***sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.***

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;

***proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.***

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations

***and his wonders among all peoples.***

<sup>4</sup>For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

***he is more to be feared than all gods.***

- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
*but it is the Lord who made the heavens.*
- <sup>6</sup> Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
*Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!*
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
*ascribe to the Lord honor and power.*
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
*bring offerings and come into his courts.*
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
*let the whole earth tremble before him.*
- <sup>10</sup> 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."*
- <sup>11</sup> 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.*
- <sup>12</sup> *Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy*  
before the Lord when he comes,  
*when he comes to judge the earth.*
- <sup>13</sup> He will judge the world with righteousness  
*and the peoples with his truth. Amen.*

**Titus 2: 11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. (Luke 2: 1-14)

**People** **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds

told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you Lord Christ.*

**Sermon:** The Nativity Story

*All are seated*

*Stand as you are able*

### **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 Form III**

*All stand or kneel*

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Diocese of Kuching-Church of the Province of Southeast Asia.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic church;

***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of *thy* people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***



## THE CONFESSION

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

*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.*

*Stand as you are able*

## THE PEACE

Officiant: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

*An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity.*

**Doxology Hymn #380**

*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. Amen.*

## The Holy Communion

**Great Thanksgiving:** Eucharistic Prayer

**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.*

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 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*All stand or kneel*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 sing The Lord's Prayer:**

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we  
forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and the  
glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them  
in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed  
on Him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*Come forward now as all are welcome at God's table.*

### **Communion**

"The Innkeeper's Carol", performed by  
Alaina & Colwyn Niemann, & Emberlynn Brauburger

**Communion Hymn: 100** *(blue hymnal) Joy to the world*

## Sending Forth

*The people stand or kneel*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

*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 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.*

*Stand as you are able*

### CONCLUDING BLESSING

**Recessional Hymn 111**

*Silent night, holy night*

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Reverends Paul Crips & Kristin Lee

Worship Leader: John Boehner

Preacher: The Congregation

Lector: Anthony Gonzalez

Acolyte: Leah Jaquez

Ushers: Gary & Betsy Hartman

Prayers of the People: John Sullivan

### Zoom

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Meeting ID 874 3471 8014

Passcode 802039

Audio Only 1-719-359-4580



### Poinsettia Donations

John & Amy Sullivan, *in memory of John & Eloise Sullivan*

Teresa Compton, *in memory of Julia & Bob*

Dick & Judy Cuthbertson

Ruth & Ed Ferguson

Tom & Kristin Lee, *in memory of Lee Stevens*

Gary & Betsy Hartman

Dorothy Stevens

Sheryll Jones

Barb & Gene Williams, *in memory of our parents, thanks be to God*

Clayton & Lynda Hardgrave

John & Karen Boehner

Greg & Marla Norman, *for our many blessings*

Dave & Nancy Freudenthal, *in memory of Lucille*



### *The Story behind St. Christopher*

One day, a small child came to the bank of the river and asked Christopher to help him across. Christopher picked the child up and began to carry him on his shoulder through the waters. As Christopher walked, the child got heavier and heavier, as if made of lead. Christopher could barely carry this small child who weighed so very much. Upon reaching the other side, Christopher remarked to the child that he had grown quite heavy as he carried him. The child then revealed himself to be the Christ Child, and that the weight he felt was the weight of the entire world on his shoulders. Then the Christ Child told Christopher to fix his staff in the bank of the river and come back tomorrow to see what had occurred. This would be the sign to Christopher that the child was truly Christ. When Christopher returned the next day, the staff had become a palm tree, bearing fruit. It is because of this experience that Christopher got his name, for Christopher means "Christ-bearer."

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