

# Christmas Eve

## December 24, 2024



### **St. Edmund's Episcopal Church**

The Rev. Alan C. James, Interim Rector

Atty. Andrea Flynn, Sr. Warden

Mr. Richard Evans, Director of Music & Organist Ms. Charlotte Mays, Jr. Warden

Mrs. Charmian Moore, Parish Administrative Assistant

[www.stedmundschicago.org](http://www.stedmundschicago.org)

# WELCOME TO ST. EDMUND'S

Thank you for coming and joining us for worship today. We are grateful for your presence with us.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we ask you to please see an usher to fill out either the guest book or a visitor card so that we might appropriately respond to your presence with us.

The congregation's spoken parts of the liturgy are found in this bulletin. Hymns will be sung from either the *Hymnal 1982* or *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, both of which are found in the pews next to you.

The Sunday School classroom, Parish Hall, and a unisex bathroom are accessed through the hallway on the north side of the sanctuary. Either door on the left side of the sanctuary will take you to this hallway.

At the time of the distribution of Communion, the ushers will invite interested individuals to come forward by row to the altar rail to receive either the Sacrament or a blessing from the priest (either standing or kneeling). In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians regardless of age and denomination are invited to receive the Sacrament. To receive the Sacrament, extend your hands and you will be offered the blessed bread and wine in a self-contained kit to consume at the rail. If you desire to receive a blessing instead of the Sacrament, fold your arms over your heart as a sign to the priest, who will offer you a blessing.

We hope that your time today is spiritually nourishing and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you again soon. May God bless you today with joy and peace.

## PHYSICAL POSTURE

At various times in the liturgy the congregation stands, sits, and kneels. Traditionally we stood to praise God, kneeled to pray, and sat to hear the Word of God. Over time, standing has come to be understood as an equally appropriate physical posture for prayer. Through the bulletin you will find italicized notations where we tend to move from one posture to another. At all times, however, know that you are welcome and encouraged to do that which seems appropriate for you physically and spiritually.

## LIVE STREAM NOTICE

Please be advised that this public service of worship will be live streamed, and that your image and or that of any image of any children or vulnerable persons in your care may be shown by way of Zoom, YouTube, or other social media platforms. Your presence in Church communicates your agreement and willingness to be photographed, filmed, and or otherwise recorded, and you also agree to the use of such images in any and all media.

## BULLETIN COVER

JESUS MAFA. The birth of Jesus with shepherds, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48387>. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).



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. *Amen.*

*Please be seated for the reading of Scripture*

### **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)**

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 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 96**

- 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.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 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."
- 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.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **A reading from Paul's letter to 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Celebrant* **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)**

*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.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Gradual Hymn**

**“Joy To The World”**

**#100 1982 Hymnal (3,4)**

**Sermon** (*seated*)

**Nicene Creed** (*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 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 – Form III** (*kneeling/standing*)

Gracious and loving God, 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 bishop, priests, and deacon; especially Paula, our bishop and Alan, our priest;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Joe, J.B., Brandon, and 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:

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for Tony Anderson, Nicholas Carl, Margaret Davis, Denise Fleming, Glenda Gwynn, Paul Holmes, Shirley Jackson, Berrenda Lewis, James Linder, Loretta Mann, Margretta Marchbanks, Mark Martin, Dorothy Nisbeth, Melvin Ryan, Clara Thorne, for Yinka and all who serve in the military, and for those we now name silently or aloud:

We thank you for the children and young people of this parish, especially Simone W., Morgan, Noah, Simone E., Josie, Wendell, Brooks, James G., Gabe, Emeri, Kennidi, James H., Scarlin, Naomi, Nathan, Diana, Raven, Aubrey, Dylan, and Tanner.

We give thanks and pray for all those celebrating birthdays this week, especially: Christopher, Nathan, Lisa, Roslyn, Kathleen, and Donna.

*The celebrant offers individual prayers for birthdays, wedding anniversary, travel and healing at the altar rail*

*Celebrant's concluding collect*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Confession**

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

*Silence*

*Celebrant and Congregation*

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** *(standing)*

**The Announcements** *(sitting)*

**The Offertory Anthem**      “There Shall Be A Star From Jacob Come Forth”      Mendelssohn

**Presentation** *standing*

To God be the glory,  
To God be the glory,  
To God be the glory  
For all the things He has done!  
With His blood He has saved me,  
With His pow’r He has raised me  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done.

**The Great Thanksgiving  
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 our 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:

*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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*Celebrant continues (the people remain standing or kneel)*

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 Edmund 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.*

*Celebrant*

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

**Lord's Prayer (Sung by Soloist )**

**Dorothy Canaday**

**Fraction Anthem "Lamb Of God"**

**Mass of St. Cyprian**

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with the people gathered around your altar, I offer you my own praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, that I may always be united to you. Although I cannot share in the blessed bread and wine of this sacrament, your Body and Blood, I ask that I might still feel your presence with me here and now. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you. May I live in you, and you in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**Distribution of Communion** (*sitting*)

**Communion Anthem**

**“Christ The Savior Is Born”**

**Cooper**

**Post Communion Prayer** (*standing/kneeling*)

*Celebrant*

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.

**The Blessing**

**The Recessional Hymn** (*standing*)

**“Silent Night”**

**#111 1982 Hymnal**

**Choir Anthem** (*sitting or kneeling*)

**“Go Ye Now In Peace”**

**Eilers**

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**The Postlude**

**“Praise Ye The Lord Of Host”**

**Saint-Saens**