

Christmas Day

December 25, 2023, 9:00 am

Merry Christmas!



The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God, ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

All **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.**

Please remain standing as able, and join in singing,

The Gloria

Gloria—Spoken

Book of Common Prayer p. 356

All **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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

1stReader A reading from the book of 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.

1stReader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

Reader Let us read from Psalm 96 responsively (*the People reading the text in bold*).

1 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.

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11-14

2nd Reader A Reading from the book of 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.

2nd Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able,

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

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!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Silence

The Sermon The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

Please stand as able, and join in saying,

The Nicene Creed

All 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 human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Please remain standing, as able, for

The Prayers of the People (*the People read the responses in bold*)

Deacon In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Deacon For all people in their daily life and work;
People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Deacon For this community, the nation, and the world;
People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Deacon For the just and proper use of your creation;
People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Deacon For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy

Deacon For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Deacon For our Presiding Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers;
People For all who serve God in his Church.

Deacon For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Deacon Hear us, Lord;
People For your mercy is great.

Deacon We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The people may add their own thanksgivings

Deacon We will exalt you, O God our King;
People And Praise your Name for ever and ever.

Silence

The people may add their own petitions

Deacon Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People Who put their trust in you.

Deacon We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Please kneel, as able,

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Welcome, Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

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 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

**All 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.**

Please kneel or stand, as able, as the Celebrant continues.

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:

**All 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.**

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

**All 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

For our online community—an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. *A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Communion of the People

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. **The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you.** Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.*

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where someone will also be available to pray with you, or you may just choose to light a candle.

Please kneel or stand, as able for,

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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

Celebrant Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage, Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Honor all persons.
Love and serve the lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And, the blessing of God Almighty, The ✠ Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Welcome!!

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome *all* people into our community – without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.

Please join us for coffee fellowship after the service.

The Ushers will direct you.

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Thomas, Drew Deley, Michael Heredia, Mark Kappelman, Joseph Leahy, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Barry Witt, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble:
Ana, Andrea, Christa, Jean Dicus, Daniel Dreiling, Pauline Duley, Elvis, Ceri Falk, Colette Furbush, Chris Goldsmith, Sally Hill, Loren, Mick Mohuchy, Patt Parker, Bruce Schaefer, Roxanne Wall, and for the people of the middle east, and victims of violence everywhere.
We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

What's Happening!

Art Camp – January 3-5th, 9am–11:30pm

Camp for all kids age 5-11, contact Claire to reserve a spot:
claire.erbeznik@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Quilters & Knitters—Thursdays 1-3pm, Boardroom

Is your New Years resolution to spend more time on needlework? Think about joining our weekly quilting, knitting, embroidering, and crochet group and share ideas and knowledge!

Ongoing

Bible Study on Zoom—Contacts: Jack Hailwood, *john.w.hailwood@outlook.com* or Suellen Eslinger, *suellenesl@verizon.net*

Yoga

Mondays from 11:30am –1:00pm - All Levels Hatha Yoga for Strength and Mobility.

Wednesdays 9:00-10:30am All Levels Gentle Yoga for Vital Mobility and Balance.

(free-will offering).

Contact: Jill Lynch—*jillfenskelynych@gmail.com*

AA—Thursdays & Sundays 7:30 pm, **AI-Anon**—Thursdays 7:00pm

Our Clergy

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector, *jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org*

Direct Line: (310) 594-7984, Church Office: (310) 375-4617

The Rev. Celeste Stump, Deacon, Chaplain at The Canterbury, *cstump@thecanterbury.org*

Direct Line: (310) 913-1069

Children and families

Contact: Kristina Pelá, *krab3@yahoo.com*

Our Staff

Dr. Mark Bennett, (310) 594-7416, *mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org*, Director of Music

Ms. Claire Erbeznik, (310) 375 4617, *claire.erbeznik@strancispalosverdes.org*, Office

Administrator & Receptionist

Mr. David Knight, Organist

Mr. Joel Miranda, Sexton

Mrs. Elaine Mistele, (310) 594-8268, *elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org*, Business Manager

Merry Christmas!



Scan the code to join our
electronic mailing list.



St Francis PalosVerdes



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