

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25, 2025 ✦ 9:00 am



Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

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 and fellowship after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

The Prelude

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen

The Word of God

Please stand as able.

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,

People **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 Kyrie

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

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 Lessons.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.**

The Response: Psalm 96

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

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- ²Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- ³Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- ⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- ¹⁰Tell 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."**
- ¹¹Let 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.
- ¹³He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

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

Please stand as able.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

Please be seated.

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.

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 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, who with the Father and the Son he 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.

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

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Celebrant Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant 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.

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

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

All **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.**

The Absolution

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.**

Please stand 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.

The Welcome and Announcements

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

All **Watch over your child(ren), 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 Offertory Sentence

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

Please stand as able.

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 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:

The Sanctus

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;
People **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)

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 you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

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.

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

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 Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we**

may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✙ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

The Postlude

Toccata - Creator of the Starry Heights

Pietro A. Yon



Merry Christmas

The Christmas decorations in the Church and Chapel have been given to the glory of God in Memorial of and Thanksgiving for:

Joyce and Chris Alley

In loving memory of our parents
Noreen, Brian, Lucille and Tom and
in Thanksgiving for our family
and friends.

Rosalind & Richard Hadley

In loving memory of Ruth Marian Brower,
Warren Addison Brower, Elayne Marian
Brower, Ruth Mildred Hadley, Ernest
Donald Hadley.

Dick Briggs & Sara Schulz

In loving memory of William & Eleanor
Briggs, Harley Wright Smith & Mary
Stewart Smith, Kenneth Daniel Schulz, &
William Hewitt Stewart IV.

Mark & Bobbette Hamilton

In thanksgiving for the Hamilton children
& grandchildren and our St. Francis family

Janice DeMore

In loving memory of her sister
Diane Koontz.

Janet Laudeman

In thanksgiving for my family and
friends at St. Francis.

Anna Eakins

In loving memory of James Eakins
and Jack and Mioko Kozaki and in
thanksgiving for our children and
grandchildren and for my
St. Francis family.

Blair & Ed Hinz

In loving memory of Bob & June Bacon
and Edward Hinz, Jr., and in thanksgiving
for our granddaughter, Ivy.

Gloria Jones

In thanksgiving for family, friends,
home and health.





Yun Lee

In thanksgiving for my family.

Jill and Kelly Lynch

In loving memory of Jill's mother, Joan Fenske.

Lloyd & Elaine Mistele

In thanksgiving for our family.

Robin Pano

In thanksgiving for my family and friends, especially thankful for my new grandchildren Jonas and Lila.

Karin Petersen

In loving memory of my mother Elsi and sister Francie and in thanksgiving for my daughter Margaret and lab Carly.

Wendy Pratt

In loving memory of my parents, Joan and Ted Pratt and in thanksgiving for my family on the East Coast and husband Tom Shuart.

Jennifer and Alex Sams

In thanksgiving for Emma, Lauren & William. Thank you for bringing such joy to our lives.

Marcia and Mike Schoettle

In loving memory of Nova and Marshall Dornin and Louise and Ferdinand Schoettle

Joanne Shultz

In loving memory of my parents and husband, John, and in thanksgiving for my wonderful St. Francis family and dear friends.

Edna Steel

In loving memory of George Ginis (1975-2025). You were loved.

Gayle Taylor

In thanksgiving for family and friends.

The Yee Family


In thanksgiving for our friends, families, and especially our sons.

Bill and Shelly Zak

In thanksgiving for our children—Kimberley, Christine, Elisabeth & Michael.

Susie and Albert Zimmerman

In thanksgiving for our grandchildren, a gift from God.



Our Staff

Gina McQueen

Office Administrator & Receptionist

gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 375 4617

Elaine Mistele

Business Manager

elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-8268

Dr. Mark Bennett

Director of Music

mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-7416

David Knight

Organist

Kristina Pelá

Prayer and Pastoral Care Leader, Volunteer

krab3@yahoo.com

Shelley Reece

Missioner for Programming and Youth

shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Cara Nilsen

Discerner

cara.nilsen@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Joel Miranda

Sexton

mirandajoel@outlook.com

Wayne Hastings

Communications

wayne@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (901) 219-6564

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



2200 Via Rosa

Palos Verdes, CA 90274

(310) 375-4617

www.stfrancispalosverdes.org



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