

NATIVITY OF

OUR LORD



St. Monica's Episcopal Church

7070 Immokalee Rd Naples, FL 34119 | 239.591.4550

Welcome to Saint Monica's Episcopal Church. We rejoice that you came to our church today, and we hope that you feel at home here.

As you consider what brought you here, perhaps seeking spiritual growth, looking for community, or responding to a simple invitation, please take a moment to look at the opportunities listed in the announcements at the back of this bulletin to find ways to grow in your faith and find a place of welcome. If you have any questions about how you can take part in the community of St. Monica's or about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to contact Fr. Jonathan Evans.

Again, we are glad you are here at Saint Monica's Episcopal Church where all are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE – EVENING SERVICE

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

Sunday, December 24, 2023 9:00 pm

Rector

The Rev. Jonathan W. Evans

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Sylvia R. Czarnetzky

Lector

Frank Dowd

Greeter

JoAnn Sarconi

Ushers

Tom Cotè

Acolyte

Barbara Evans

Altar Guild Members

Lorraine Ciano, Linda Duffy, Linda Freund, Mary Gentzle, Sandra Kilmon,
Donna Janosec-Luzzi, Stacey McCurdy, Theresa Miller, JoAnn Sarconi,
Charles Shaw, Lisa Shaw, Ruthann Turley, Heather Williamson

Camera Operator

Jim Sarconi

Flower Team

Debbie Corey
Sharon Lapierre

**** Please remember to silence your electronic devices during the service. ****

Service begins with the lighting of the candles and the organ voluntary.

Please use this time for silent prayer and meditation.

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach

[Good Christian friends, rejoice!]

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand, as able.

Hymn in Procession

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

(Stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 6)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

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

Collect for Purity

Gloria

Glory to God

William Matthias, S-278

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.*

Collect of the Day

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

The Word of God

The First Reading

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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 96



- 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 salva/tion from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the / nations*
- and his wonders a/mong 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 ho/nor 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 trem/ble before him.
- 10 Tell it among the nations: "The / LORD is King!"*
- he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peo/ples 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 Reading

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gradual Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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!"

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan W. Evans

Please stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed

Page 358, BCP

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.*

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

Page 387, BCP

The Leader and People pray responsively

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

Concluding Collect

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence may be observed.

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.**

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 you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

During the Offering

The Virgin's Slumber Song

Max Reger

Soloist: Marilyn Dessauer, Soprano

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Hymn 107

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Page 361, BCP

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.

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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 and Benedictus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

William Matthias, S-128

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.

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:

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

Amen

McNeil Robinson, S-147

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Christ Our Passover

David Hurd, S-154

*You are invited and encouraged to come to God's table. The communion bread is received on an outstretched palm.
If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms over your chest.*

Communion

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 96

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please have one adult family member hold the lighted candle.

During the Lighting of the Candles

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn 111

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus Lord at thy birth.

The Blessing

Celebrant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor.

People Amen.

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen.

Hymn in Procession

Joy to the World!

Hymn 100

At this time, please exextinguish your candles.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Joy to the World!

Fred Bock Smith

*You are invited to remain seated and listen to the final Voluntary
or leave quietly to greet and converse with one another outside.*