

The Nicene Creed *All standing.*

BCP, pg. 358

Prayers of the People VI

BCP, pg. 392

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

As a sign of the reconciliation that is theirs in Christ, the Ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, pg. 367

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, pg. 364

The Communion of the People

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, extend your hands, palms crossed and upward. You may consume the bread or wait, retaining it to dip it in the wine. To drink wine from the chalice, please assist in guiding the cup to your lips by holding the base of the cup. Those desiring prayers for healing should hold up their hands as the Priest approaches. If you wish simply to receive a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

BCP, pg. 365

The Christmas Blessing

After each blessing the people say: Amen.

The Dismissal

BCP, Pg 366

People: **Thanks be to God.**



St. Matthew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

THE REVEREND ELIZABETH HENDRICK

As you prepare for worship, please remember to turn down electronic devices.

The Welcome and Announcements

The Word of God

The Opening Sentences

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

BCP, pg. 355

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 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.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

BCP, pg. 727

1

Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

2

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

3

The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6

Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

7

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: John 1: 1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Elizabeth Hendrick