

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

2750 Cardinal Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635



Christmas Eve Service

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

The Processional Hymn #83 O Come all ye faithful

Greeting

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

*People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

Gloria #96 Angels we have heard on high

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

*People **And also with you.***

Presider 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.

The Word of God

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.

Lector: *The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

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 ho-
liness; *

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 right-
eousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

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.

Lector: *The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #89 It came upon the midnight clear

The people stand as they are able.

Gospel Reading

Presider: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

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

Luke 2:1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring

you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Presider: *The Gospel of the Lord.*
People: **Praise to You Lord Christ.**

Homily

The Nicene Creed *All say together*

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Hear us, O Christ". For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humble, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: **Hear us, O Christ.**

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Jennifer our diocesan Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ

Leader: For all who are in awe of God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may feel your Holy presence calling to them to come to you, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially the President, members of congress, and all who hold authority, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit this season; that they may be relieved, comforted, and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For this congregation: for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may have soft hearts of compassion and forgiveness, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as custodians of the earth and commit ourselves to work alongside them for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

Hear us, O Christ.

Leader: For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Hear us, O Christ.

Concluding Collect:

*Presider: Almighty and Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do
your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of God be always with you

All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Presider says

*Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to
the Most High. Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Hymn: #84 Love came down at Christmas

Doxology

The Hymnal 1982 #380 v3 only

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. ♪

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(Presider and People together)*

***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

Then the Presider 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.***

Lord's Prayer

Presider: *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,*

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

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church.)

Communion Hymns #101 Away in a manger and

#115 What Child is this

(people should pick up a candle in a holder after receiving communion. Candles will be lit during the communion music time and church lights will be dimmed for the rest of the service).

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

Presider 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.

Blessing

The Presider says

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

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

Dismissal

Presider: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Love, Peace, Hope, and Joy. Alleluia, Alleluia!!*

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**

(The choir and altar party leads the people outside the church to the sidewalk/patio. Once all are outside, with candles, we will sing Silent Night. After the hymn, the people, in quiet expectation, holy mystery, and good will, may depart the service.)

Concluding Hymn #111 *Silent Night, Holy Night* (lyrics below)

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

Merry Christmas to you and yours and God bless us, everyone.