



The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 25, 2021  
10:30 a.m.

**HOLY NATIVITY**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Holy Baptism*

### *Welcome to Holy Nativity!*

In order to create a safe environment during the Covid-19 pandemic, the following policies have been put into effect. Thank you for your cooperation and your consideration for your fellow worshippers.

- Social distancing (6'+) is required (Family groups can sit together)
- Masks should be worn at all times when inside church buildings.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic we are trying to shorten service length to reduce exposure. We are not reading all four Bible lessons, and may we suggest that you read them yourselves during your waiting quiet devotional time before the service starts.
- Singing is permitted while wearing masks.

### **The Word of God**

**Opening Music** "He Leadeth Me" (*Arr. by Dale Wood*)

John Durgan, organist

**Children's Time** *All children are invited to come up for children's time and then process out afterwards to participate in children's church. **They will return for the Baptism and assemble at the font.***

*The people standing, the Officiant says*

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

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

**Officiant** There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People** **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

**Officiant** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People** **One God and Father of all.**

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## The Lessons

### A Reading from Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is  
    `the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
    it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
    I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
    and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **A Reading from 1 John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

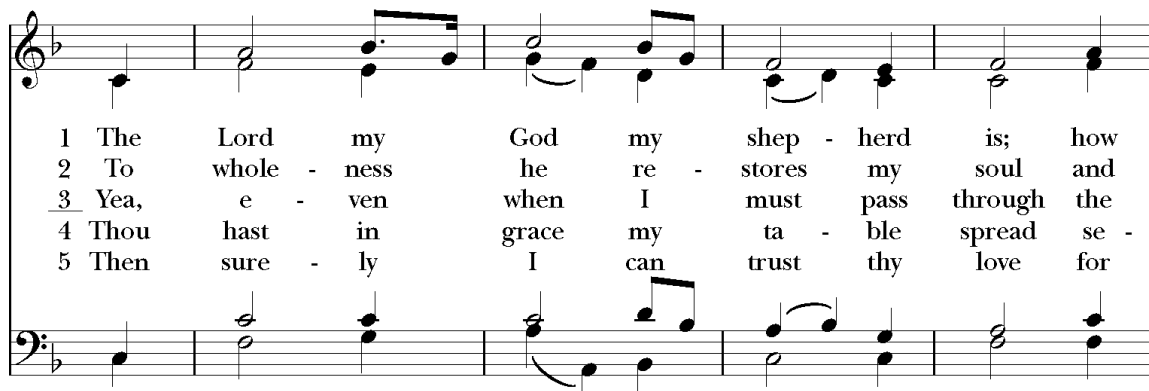
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. *The Word of the Lord.*

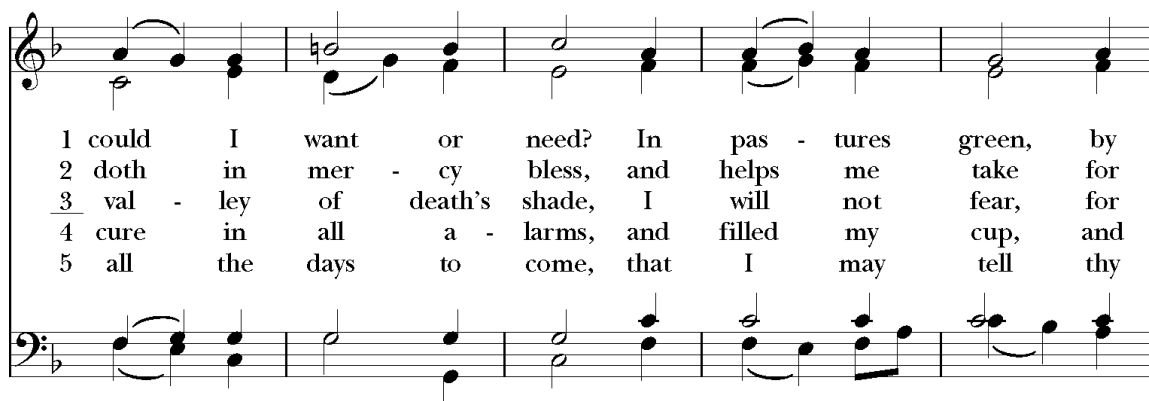
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn "The Lord my God my shepherd is"

Hymn #663



1 The Lord my God my shep - herd is; how  
 2 To whole - ness he re - stores my soul and  
 3 Yea, e - ven when I must pass through the  
 4 Thou hast in grace my ta - ble spread se -  
 5 Then sure - ly I can trust thy love for



1 could I want or need? In pas - tures green, by  
 2 doth in mer - cy bless, and helps me take for  
 3 val - ley of death's shade, I will not fear, for  
 4 cure in all a - larms, and filled my cup, and  
 5 all the days to come, that I may tell thy



1 streams se - rene, he safe - ly doth me lead.  
 2 his Name's sake the paths of right - eous - ness.  
 3 thou art here, to com - fort and to aid.  
 4 borne me up in ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 5 praise, and dwell for ev - er in thy home.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of Psalm 23 Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
 Music: *Crimond*, melody Jesse Seymour Irvine (1836-1887); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (10:11-18)  
*People*           **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." *The Gospel of the Lord*

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Steve Bates

## **Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**

*The Celebrant says* The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented

**Adults and Older Children** *The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows*

**Sponsor**       **I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented*

Do you desire to be baptized?

**Candidate**   **I do.**

### **Infants and Younger Children**

*Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and Godparents*

**I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*  
Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*  
**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*  
Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*  
**I will, with God's help.**

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* **I do.**

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*  
Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

**People We will.**

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words*

Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

# The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of new birth [and for those (this person) who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.]

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

*Leader* Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**People** Lord, hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving over the Water

*The Officiant blesses the water, first saying*

The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give him thanks and praise.



### *Officiant*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrants touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Baptism**

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Officiant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your child the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *her* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one*

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer.*

*When all have been baptized, the Officiant says*  
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Officiant and People*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

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

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

## The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture*

**Offertory Anthem** - "Fugue in Flat" (*J. S. Bach*)  
John Durgan, organist

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

*People*            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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*A Proper Preface is said by the Celebrant.*

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 “Holy, holy, holy Lord”**  
*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal #S-130

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody. There are several measures with rests in the vocal line, indicating where the voice is silent while the piano continues.

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand, kneel, or sit reverently. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

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

*Then may be sung or said*

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
*and may add*

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant 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.**

## **Benediction and Blessing**

*The Deacon, or a Priest, dismisses the people.  
The People respond* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Closing Music**

John Durgan, organist

## Today's Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant  
Assisting  
Organist  
Chalice Bearers  
Acolyte  
Lector  
Ushers  
Altar Guild  
Dir. Of Video Production

The Rev. Steve Bates  
The Rev. Tom Weller  
John Durgan  
Kelly Roberson  
Nicolas Pereira  
Ivan Pereira  
Linda Weller and Lori Bates  
Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mittiga, and David Burris  
A. J. Jeffery

## Remember in Prayer

**From our congregation:** Bruce McLawhorn, Harry Cooper, Audrey Powell, Betty Grammer, Alice Kinney, Carl Harris, Tass and family, Mary Troxell, Sarah Mason, Lou Churchill, Malinda Kelly, Hannah Davis, Olivia Clemons, Tim Phillips, Pat Spangler, Inge Churchill, Mary Elizabeth Moore, David Burris, Bert Churchill, Liz Robin, Robert Dozier, Kelly Roberson, George McInnis, Terry Jangula, Jeannette Tremaine, Tim and Ann Percival, Paul Herbert, James Miller, Lauren Berry.

**For our friends:** Arthur Reedie, Jonathan, Ruth Geers, John Daniel, The Franklin Family, Austin, Bob and Debbie Snuggs, Margaret Lord Wilde, Oscar Wilde, Cosby Martin, Liz Forman, Jeremy, Day Ann Logue, The Cross Family, Rosa Kulik, Louise Boyle, The Ward family, JoAnn Houston Roaden, James Melzer, Corky Ajax, Cleo Cook, Michael and Cindy Satink, Gracelyn, Barbara Healey, Michele Robin Higareda.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Mark's for the Deaf in Mobile.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Church of Japan.

**We pray for all active duty in the Armed Forces** serving in Bay County and throughout the world: Chris Morgan, Michael Darrah, Stacey Johnson, Christopher Landess, Greg Jenkins, Joseph Railey, Patrick Keenen, Jeremy Hough, Wes Eberhard, Stacey Holliday, Caleb Loveland, Robert Ice, Andrew Frye, Michael Keller, Rex Brown, Jacob McAndrews, Nick Bailey, Nicholas Longden.

**We pray for those celebrating birthdays:** Apr. 25: Ella Cole, Robert Dozar, April Adam Cantrell, Apr. 27: Alex Phillips, Faith Smith, Apr. 28: Abram Jeffery, Apr. 29: Bailey Melzer, Madge Smith, Apr. 30: Alvin Peters, Marion Wallace, May 1: Emerson Cantrell, Lou Churchill, Kat Hutt, Wes McClellan, Tim Pride, Larry Young.

**We pray for those celebrating anniversaries:** Apr. 30: Jeff and Kate Watson.

**The Altar Flowers are given this Sunday** by Austin and Janae Syfrett in honor of Wyatt's birthday.

## ***SAINTS ALIVE***

Please check our website at [www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org) for the latest information about programs and events. Go to [www.diocgc.org](http://www.diocgc.org) to check out everything about the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

### **Wonderful Wednesdays! Join us for the most fun night of the week!**

5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist  
6:00 pm: Supper at the Pavilion  
6:30 pm: Programs for all ages

**Honoring our Graduates!** Join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:30 am service as we honor our 2021 graduates. If you know of any graduate(s) that need to be included, please contact the church office. [madge@holy-nativity.org](mailto:madge@holy-nativity.org) or 747-4000.

**Bishop's Visit and Mother's Day:** Join us as we celebrate Mother's Day and we welcome Bishop Russell Kendrick to Holy Nativity. Confirmation Service at 10:30 am.

### **Shell Island Sunday Returns!**

Mark your calendars for the return of Shell Island Sunday, May 16. This year marks our tenth anniversary of worship and fellowship at Shell Island. Look for the Shell Island display in the foyer to order T-shirts and we need to know if you need a ride to the island.

### **Wednesday Night End of the Year Celebration!**

Join us May 19<sup>th</sup> for our end of year party!  
5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist  
6:00 pm: Cookout with special guest,  
                  the 30A Oyster guy  
Kids: bring your swimsuit for the waterslide!

## **HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, Bishop  
The Rev. Steve Bates, Rector  
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate

### **SERVICES**

#### **Sundays**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite One  
(Nursery provided)  
9:15 am (Sept. – May)  
Adult/Youth Christian  
Education & Children's  
Chapel  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite Two  
(Children's Christian  
Education & nursery is  
provided)

#### **Wednesdays**

5:30 pm *five-thirty* service  
followed by dinner and  
programs (Sept. – May)  
6:00 pm SummerTime: Evening  
Prayer followed by dinner  
(June –August)