



**HOLY NATIVITY**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday in Lent  
Rite Two, Year A

Sunday, March 5, 2023  
10:30 a.m.



*Welcome to Holy Nativity!*

**Prelude** "Fairest Lord Jesus" (*arr. David N. Johnson*)

John Durgan, organist

**Opening Hymn** "The God of Abraham praise"

Hymn #401



1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;



1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:  
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;



1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:  
2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,  
3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,  
4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:  
5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;



we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.  
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.  
 and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.  
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."  
 all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

## The Word of God

### Children's Time

*All children are invited to come up for children's time. After, they will follow the cross out to participate in children's church, to return during announcement time.*

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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 following song of praise is sung, all standing*

### Trisagion

Hymn #S-102

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

## **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 glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Lessons**

### **Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-4a**

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

*The Word of the Lord.*

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

### **Psalm 121** *Levavi oculos*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
    from where is my help to come?

**2 My help comes from the LORD, \***  
    **the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
    and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.**

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

**8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.**

### **The Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. *The Word of the Lord.*

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

Sequence Hymn “When God was lifted from the earth”

Hymn #603

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his  
 2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and  
 3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -  
 4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,  
 al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us  
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels  
 I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.  
 as his friends and loves us as we are.  
 but a face, a per - son, and a name.  
 cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936). Copyright © 1973 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:1-17)

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Tom Weller

*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing*

## **The Nicene Creed**

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.

## **The Prayers of the People: Form III**

*People may remain standing, kneel, or sit reverently.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*  
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.



*Silence*

*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*

### **Remember in Prayer**

*(Names stay on the list for 3 months. If someone needs to stay on longer, contact Madge Smith at [madge@holy-nativity.org](mailto:madge@holy-nativity.org) or 747-4000. Always get permission from the person before you add them.)*

**From our congregation:** Alice Kinney, Carl Harris, Mary Troxell, Sarah Mason, Hannah Davis, Inge Churchill, David Burris, Liz Robin, Terry Jangula, Ursula Hixson, Jeannette Tremaine, Edyth Brown, Gerhard Klaassen, Florence Fortier, Corey and Brianna Kelly, Susan Nelson, Sue White, Margaret Young, Tim Phillips, Casey Cole.

**For our friends:** Ernie Gentry, Anne Rockwell, Sandra Roose, Denise, Robert Simpson, Dylan Wood, Charlie Mann, Bob and Debbie Snuggs, Rosa Kulik, Myrna McKinley, Sebi MacKay, Amelia Davis, Jason Moss, Stephen, Earl Leavins, Ted Haney, Randy, Rosemary Martin, Lee Hardy, Brenda Wikins, Lauren Godwin, Zach Baird.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Paul's in Daphne.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer** we pray for The Church of the Province of South East Asia.

**We pray for all active duty in the Armed Forces** serving in Bay County and throughout the world: Michael Darrah, Stacey Johnson, Christopher Landess, Joseph Railey, Jeremy Hough, Wes Eberhard, Stacey Holliday, Caleb Loveland, Robert Ice, Andrew Frye, Michael Keller, Rex Brown, Nicholas Longden, Marcus Duffy, James Cowart, Austin Johnson.

**We pray for those celebrating birthdays:** Mar. 5: Inge Churchill, Jerry Darnell, Mar. 8: Terrell Hartzog, Mar. 9: Alexander Lovchuk, Mar. 10: Andrew Collier, William Lark.

**We pray for those celebrating anniversaries:** Mar. 8: Jerry and Catherine Shores, Mar. 11: Nathan and Bethany Nowak.

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*  
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.**

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or suitable collect.*

### **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

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

### **Greetings and Announcements**

#### **The Holy Communion**

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

**Offertory** “Once To Every Man and Nation” (*arr. Lani Smith*)   John Durgan, organist

#### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings** (*Old 100th*)

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

#### **The Great Thanksgiving** *Eucharistic Prayer A*

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

*People*                   The Lord be with you.  
**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”**

Hymnal #S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, then 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.**

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*

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

*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.

**Communion Music** *(feel free to sing along)*

### **For The Bread Which You Have Broken**

1. For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured, for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
2. By this pledge that you do love us, by your gift of peace restored, by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.
3. With our sainted ones in glory seated at the heavenly board, may the church that's waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
4. In your service, Lord, defend us, in our hearts keep watch and ward; in the world where you have sent us, let your kingdom come, O Lord.

## **In Remembrance of Me**

1. In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

2. In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in, let him in. Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too. That this in my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you. In remembrance of me search for truth. In remembrance of me always love. In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.

## **I Am The Bread of Life (Hymn 335)**

1. I am the bread of life; they who come to me shall not hunger; they who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father draw them.

**Refrain:** And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up,  
and I will raise them up on the last day.

2. The Bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world, and they who eat of this bread, they shall live for ever, they shall live for ever. (Refrain)

3. Unless you eat of the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his Blood, you shall not have life within you, you shall not have life within you. (Refrain)

4. I am the resurrection, I am the life. They who believe in me, even if they die, they shall live forever. (Refrain)

5. Yes, Lord we believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who has come into the world. (Refrain)

## **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**



# Closing Hymn: "Faith of our fathers!"

Hymn #558

1 Faith of our fa - thers! liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
 2 Faith of our fa - thers! faith and prayer shall win all na - tions  
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! we will love both friend and foe in

fire and sword: O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
 un - to thee; and through the truth that comes from God,  
 all our strife: and preach thee, too, as love knows how,

*Refrain*

when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word:  
 man - kind shall then in - deed be free. Faith of our fa - thers,  
 by kind - ly deeds and vir - tuous life.

ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: *St. Catherine*, Henri Frédéric Hemy (1818-1888); adapt. and arr. James G. Walton (1821-1905).

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

**Postlude**

John Durgan, organist

**Today's Ministers**

Preacher	The Rev. Tom Weller
Celebrant	The Rev. Steve Bates
Organist/Choir Dir.	John Durgan
Chalice Bearers	Brian Leebrick and TBA
Lector	Holly Melzer
Acolytes	Kate Leebrick, Bailey and Will Melzer, Scarlet Jernigan
Ushers	John Hutt and Trey Hutt
Greeter	Michael Fuller
Altar Guild	Joanne MacPhee and Melanie Cox
Dir. Of Video Prod.	A. J. Jeffery

## ***SAINTS ALIVE***

### **This Week at Holy Nativity**

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.dioceg.org](http://www.dioceg.org) to check out everything about the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

#### **Lenten Program 2023**

#### **The Way of Love in Lent**

Beginning March 1st

Worship • 5:30

Soup Supper • 6:00

Program • 6:30

This Lent, you are invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Utilizing brief videos and discussion questions we will examine the 7 components of the Way of Love program developed by our Presiding Bishop.

*Note: There will be no Wednesday program on March 15th due to Spring Break.*

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** We need your soup! The signup sheet is on the Welcome Table.

**Confirmation Classes** for Adults and Youth have been scheduled for April 16 and April 30, with a makeup class on May 7. If you or your youth would like to be confirmed into the Episcopal Church on May 21 when the Bishop is visiting, please contact the church office at [madge@holy-nativity.org](mailto:madge@holy-nativity.org) or 850-747-4000.

**Steak and Bake for Wilmer Hall has been scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up sheets will be soon. This fundraiser is for our Diocesan Children's Home located in Mobile, AL. Go to [wilmerhall.org](http://wilmerhall.org) to find out more about Wilmer Hall.

**Palm Sunday Spruce Up is April 2<sup>nd</sup>!** Join us after the 10:30 am service to spruce up our church grounds. Bring your work gloves!

#### **Reflections on a Ministry: Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

Join us for this special ecumenical event featuring the life and ministry of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Sunday, March 26, at 4pm in the First Methodist Church Community Life Center. Dinner will be provided so registration is a must! Participating congregations are Family of God Baptist Church, First Methodist, Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Sign up is no later than Monday, March 20th. Call the church office, 747-4000 to make reservations.

## **HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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[www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)

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 Adult Sunday School

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)