



HOLY NATIVITY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 25A
Sunday, October 29, 2023
Rite Two at 10:30 a.m.



Pentecost

Welcome to Holy Nativity!

Prelude “Love To Tell The Story” (*arr. Willam Fischer*)

John Durgan, organist

Opening Hymn “Immortal, invisible God only wise”

Hymn #423

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, #423 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt. Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, 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

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

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

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

Song of Praise

Hymn #362, verse 1

**Holy, holy holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.**

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows

his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. *The Word of the Lord.*

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 *Domine, refugium*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

**2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when
it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.

**14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

**16 Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.**

17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. *The Word of the Lord.*

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn “Rock of Ages, cleft for me”

Hymn #685

1 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood
from thy wounded side that flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

- 2 Should my tears for ever flow,
 should my zeal no languor know,
 all for sin could not atone:
 thou must save, and thou alone;
 in my hand no price I bring,
 simply to thy cross I cling.
- 3 While I draw this fleeting breath,
 when mine eyelids close in death,
 when I rise to worlds unknown
 and behold thee on thy throne,
 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
 let me hide myself in thee.

Rock of ages, cleft for me, #685 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying
 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (22: 34-46)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
 “Sit at my right hand,
 until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.
The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Steve Bates

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 the office at admin@holy-nativity.org or 747-4000. Always get permission from the person before you add them.)

From our congregation: Alice Kinney, Carl Harris, Sarah Mason, Hannah Davis, Inge Churchill, Liz Robin, Terry Jangula, Ursula Hixson, Jeannette Tremaine, Edyth Brown, Gerhard Klaassen, Florence Fortier, Corey and Brianna Kelly, Sue White, Tim Phillips, Dianna Hawthorne, Mike Gailfoil, Ann Watts, Joe Ciccarelli, Judy Bennett, Kelsey Lipscomb.

For our friends: Jason Moss, Ann Lahan, Julie Hilton, Shirley McNamara, Baby Rose, Tony Cox, Ariel Bromlow, Brantley Galloway, Claudia Filloramo, Charlie Mann, Bill and Shirley Gobat.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Jude's in Niceville and St. Simon on the Sound in Fort Walton Beach.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

We also pray: Almighty God, Look graciously on this parish family, and send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the search committee, the vestry, and the Holy Nativity community to be of one heart and mind, that we may receive a faithful rector, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

We pray for all active duty in the Armed Forces serving in Bay County and throughout the world: Wes Eberhard, Stacey Holliday, James Cowart, Austin Johnson, Michael Darrah, Robert Ice, John Lipscomb.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays: Oct. 29: Dan Finley, Theresa Townsend, Oct. 30: Mark Godwin, Oct. 31: Jack Thompson, Nov. 1: Karen Shores, Nov. 2: Tom Hightower, Wayne Lindsey, Kaew Sumpton, Nov. 4: Max McCord.

We pray for those celebrating anniversaries: Nov. 4: Daniel and Holly Melzer.

The Altar Flowers are given today by Bert and Jo Munn in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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

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.

Greetings and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture

Offertory “O Worship The King” (C.H.H. Parry)

John Durgan, organist

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

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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-130

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 Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus, #130 from The Hymnal 1982, Service Music — Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant and People

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

Closing Hymn: “Jesus shall reign where’er the sun”

Hymn #544

- 1 Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
doth his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his Name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his Name.
- 4 Blessings abound where’er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun, #544 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (d. 1793).

Deacon, or a Priest, dismisses the people.

The People respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

John Durgan, organist

Today's Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant

The Rev. Steve Bates

Chalice Bearers

Lisa McLendon and Scott Clemons

Lector

Paula Hart

Acolytes

Jackson and Laney Lee, Esteban Pereira, Carson Berry

Ushers

Charles and Mary Bonham

Greeters

Lori Bates

Altar Guild

Dan and Robin Finley, Joanne MacPhee, Nancy Roupp,

Tricia Berry

Organist/Choir Dir.

John Durgan

Dir. Of Video Prod.

A. J. Jeffery

SAINTS ALIVE
This Week at Holy Nativity

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

Operation Christmas Child: Holy Nativity Episcopal Church is again participating in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have set up a Goal Page with the link below to Build a Box on-line. It is a simple process of selecting a gender, age, and gifts, then entering your payment method. Please join us in putting smiles on faces and offering the word of Jesus' love to children around the world this Christmas session. Go to: <https://sampur.se/3RdRVJc>

Wonderful Wednesdays!

5:30 pm: Worship

6:00 pm: Dinner is served

6:30 pm: Programs for Youth and Children

Join us for the most fun night of the week!

WE WILL NOT HAVE WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON NOVEMBER 1.

Note from Madge: I am transitioning my email from madge@holy-nativity.org to admin@holy-nativity.org. After I retire, AJ and Kathy will be checking and responding to emails. As of now, please send your emails to me at admin@holy-nativity.org. Thank you so much.

Hello Everyone,

On behalf of the Search Committee, I'm writing to provide an update and request your assistance in the next step to selecting a new rector. We are now beginning the process of establishing a parish profile. This is an important process whereby we will reflect on who we are as a parish. In order to elicit as much input as possible the Search Committee has adopted a two phase process.

First there will be in person facilitated meetings where we'll collectively grapple with our strengths, weaknesses and vision for the future. We are planning three separate sessions.

1. Sunday October 29th between services.
2. Sunday November 5th after the 10:30 service which will include a light lunch.
3. Wednesday November 8th at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be designed for children only so they have an opportunity for open input.

We are asking you to please participate in one of the meetings. We will have two ways to sign up. Madge will initiate the online process and we'll have an old fashioned sign up sheet outside of Battin hall. Our goal is to have 30-40 people at each meeting. So we ask you to be flexible in your plans to attend. Hopefully we'll have high participation in which case we'll schedule an additional meeting.

For the second phase, a survey will be sent to all of you shortly after the live meetings to be completed individually.

We hope you'll join in and sign up. We really need your input.

Thanks,

Scott Clemons
Search Committee Chair

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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)