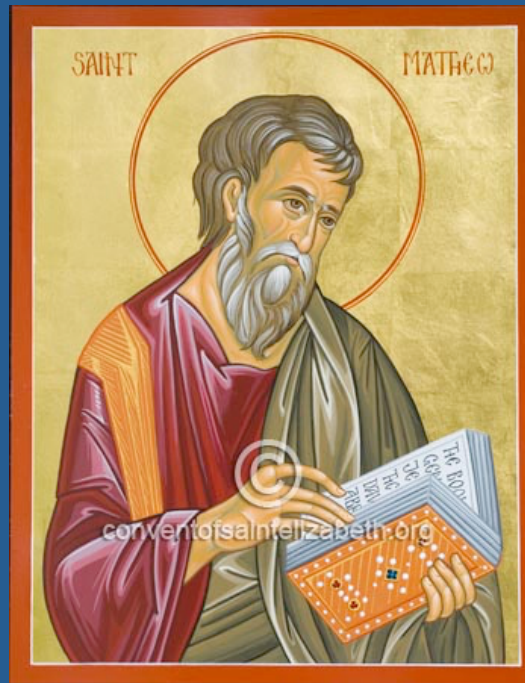


Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Nativity



Organ Prelude

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude

“Herr Jesu Christ, du höchstes Gut”
 (“Lord Jesus Christ, O highest good”)

BWV 1114



Processional Hymn

Please stand and join in singing

390 in the blue Hymnal

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

#390 verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng,
psaltery, organ, and song;
sounding in glad adoration.

#390 *verse 2*

Praise to the Lord;
over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle wings,
safely his saints he sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen
how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

#390 verse 3

Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy way
and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

#390 verse 4

Praise to the Lord!

O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath
come now with praises before him!

Let the amen

sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

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

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

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

The children going to Children's Chapel
come forward for a blessing.

*Please stand and join in singing
S278 in the beginning
of the blue Hymnal*

Gloria in excelsis



S278

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

S278

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

S278

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated

First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

The readings are also printed in the bulletin.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.”

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: 8 - 13
BCP 733

8

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

*

slow to anger and of great kindness.

9

He will not always accuse us,

*

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

*

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

*

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12

As far as the east is from the west,

*

so far has he removed our sins from us.

13

As a father cares for his children,

*

so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

The readings are also printed in the bulletin.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Sequence Hymn

Please stand and join us in singing
3 in the blue Hymnal

Now that the daylight fills the sky
(verses 1-3)

3 verse 1

Now that the daylight fills the sky,
we lift our hearts to God on high,
that he, in all we do or say,
would keep us free from harm this day:

3 verse 2

Our hearts and lips may he restrain;
keep us from causing others pain,
that we may see and serve his Son,
and grow in love for everyone.

3 verse 3

From evil may he guard our eyes,
our ears from empty praise and lies;
from selfishness our hearts release,
that we may serve, and know his peace;

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 18:21-35

The readings are also printed in the bulletin.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'

Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him,
'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt
because you pleaded with me. Should you not
have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had
mercy on you?'

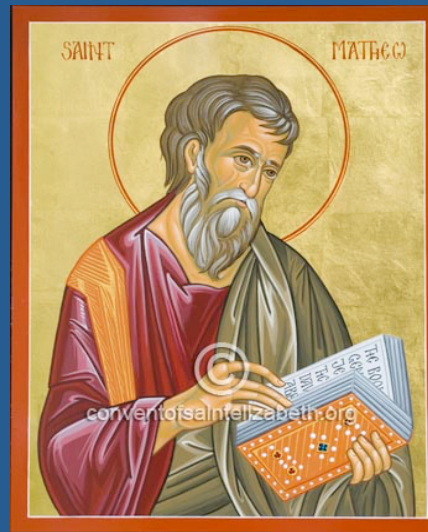
And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi



Forgiveness Is Hard... But Necessary.

The Nicene Creed

page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer
(Please stand)

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 V

Book of Common Prayer, Page 389

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled
with truth and love, and be found without fault at
the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who love 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald, our president, and Doug, our governor and all elected leaders and judges, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer, especially for hurricane and earthquake victims, in the United States and the Caribbean, for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this parish family, especially in our time of transition. Strengthen our resolve to follow your guidance in our discernment. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. May we show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant and People:

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.

Celebrant:

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.

People: Amen.

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

People: And also with you.

*Please share a sign of Christ's peace with
your neighbors.*

Announcements

Please be seated



Offertory Anthem

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) /

F. Busoni (1866-1924)

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits;
who forgives your iniquities,
and who heals your afflictions;
who redeems your life from destruction,
and crowns you with tenderness.

His loving kindness shall not fail;
He crowns you with tenderness. Amen.

*Please stand and sing as the Offering is brought
forward*

Hymn # 380, verse 3



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. Amen

*The Great Thanksgiving:
Book of Common Prayer page 369*

Celebrant: 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 God thanks
and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the
Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Please join in singing
S125 Sanctus in the blue Hymnal*



Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Please join in singing
S125 Sanctus in the blue Hymnal*



Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Celebrant: After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Celebrant: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Celebrant: Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises,
Father, through Jesus Christ our great High
Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
your Church gives honor, glory, and worship,
from generation to generation.

People: AMEN.

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

Celebrant and People:

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.

*Please join us in singing
S154 Fraction Anthem
in the blue Hymnal*

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the people
of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.

Healing prayers and prayers of Intercession are available in the Prayer Chapel during Communion.



Communion Hymn

*Please join in singing
#674 in the blue Hymnal*

“Forgive our sins as we forgive”

674 verse 1

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive”
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.*

674 verse 2

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

674 verse 3

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you.

674 verse 4

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace.



Communion Hymn

*Please join in singing
#336 in the blue Hymnal*

Come with us, O blessed Jesus

336 *verse 1*

Come with us, O blessèd Jesus,
with us evermore to be;
and though leaving now thine altar,
let us nevermore leave thee!
Be thou one with us for ever,
in our life thy love divine
our own flesh and blood has taken,
and to us thou givest thine.

336 *verse 2*

Come with us, O mighty Savior,
Go from God, and Light from Light;
thou art God, thy glory veiling,
so that we may bear the sight.
Now we go to seek and serve thee,
through our work
as through our prayer;
grant us light to see and know thee,
in thy people everywhere.

336 *verse 3*

Come with us, O King of glory,
by angelic voices praised;
in our hearts as in they heaven,
be enraptured anthems raised.

Let thy mighty chorus ever
sing its glad exultant songs;
let its hymn be heard for ever –
peace for which creation longs.

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.

Celebrant and People:

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.

The Blessing

People: Amen.



Recessional Hymn

*Please stand and join in singing
376 in the blue Hymnal*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

376 verse 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

376 verse 2

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

376 *verse 3*

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Fugue in D-major BWV 532