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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEASON OF ADVENT

8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist - Rite One



THE RIGHT REVEREND C. ANDY DOYLE, BISHOP OF TEXAS  
THE REVEREND STEVE KARCHER, RECTOR  
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Processional

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymnal 56

Nov 28th - Verses 1 & 2

Dec 5th - Verses 3 & 4

Dec 12th - Verses 5 & 6

Dec 19th - Verses 7 & 8

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Celebrant:** Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People: ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

**Celebrant:** Show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved:

People: ***O Lord God of hosts.***

**Celebrant:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

*The Advent candle is now lit.*

**Celebrant:** Show us your mercy, O Lord:

People: ***And grant us your salvation.***

### *Greetings from Fr. Steve*

### A Penitential Order

BCP 319

### The Opening Sentence

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

People: ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

**Celebrant:** Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 22:37-40

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*Join us at St. Christopher's on Christmas Eve!*

*Our Family Service is at 5:30pm with a “Come to the Manger” pageant for all the children.*

*Our Traditional Christmas Eve service is at 7:30pm.*



Please join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation in the Parish Hall, after the service.

Please preserve the sanctity of the worship area by keeping lengthy conversations to the Parish Hall.

Maintain a quiet, contemplative space in the worship and narthex area.

## ANGEL TREE



Please select an angel from our tree to buy a gift for a child this Christmas. Return the gift with the angel tag by December 12th.

## POINSETTIAS



Please fill out a form to purchase a poinsettia in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one.  
Please return with payment by December 16th.

## The Trisagion

(Spoken 3 times)

BCP 356

### Celebrant:

Holy God  
Holy and Mighty  
Holy Immortal One

### People:

*Have mercy upon us.*

## The Collect of the Day

See Insert

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

## The First Reading

See Insert

Reader: A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

After the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## The Psalm

See Insert

## The Epistle

See Insert

Reader: A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Processional

See Hymn Board/Insert

*At the Gospel reading:*

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_.

People: ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

## **The Gospel**

**See Insert**

*After the Gospel is read:*

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

## **Gospel Recessional**

**See Hymn Board/Insert**

## **The Sermon**

**Fr. Steve Karcher**

*A moment of reflection follows*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 326**

*All stand (as you are able) and say:*

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.**

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 339**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray together.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.**

**And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

**BCP 339**

**Celebrant:** The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

## **The Recessional Hymn**

**See Hymn Board/Insert**

## **The Dismissal**

**BCP 339**

**Celebrant:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

## **Postlude**

**Organ/Piano**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
**grant us thy peace.**

**All together:**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

**Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Draw near, *either in spirit or in person*, and receive them in remembrance that Christ died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Communion Hymns**

**See Hymn Board/Insert**

*(All are welcome to Jesus' table for Communion or a Blessing.)*

**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**

**BCP 328**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world,  
saying, "***Lord have Mercy***"

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

***Lord have Mercy.***

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially for Michael, our presiding Bishop, together with Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kathryn, our Bishops, Steve, our priest; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

***Lord have Mercy.***

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

***Lord have Mercy.***

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

***Lord have Mercy.***

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

***Lord have Mercy.***

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

***Lord have Mercy.***

*(Silence)*

*People may add their own petitions.*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Christopher and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

***Lord have Mercy.***

*(Silence)*

Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 336**

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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

**BCP 337**

**Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** ***Therefore, let us keep the feast.***

*(Please stand or kneel - as you are able)*

**The Celebrant continues:**

**BCP 341**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies.

*People may add their own petitions.*

*(Silence)*

**For the Parish**

**BCP 817**

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Lord have Mercy.***

**Prayer for those in the Armed Forces**

**BCP 823**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Lord have Mercy.***

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

**Confession of Sin**

**BCP 320**

**Celebrant:** Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Celebrant:** Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

**The Peace** *(shared by waving, smiling, peace signs, etc., from one's pew)*

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

**People:** ***And with thy spirit.***

### ***Announcements/Birthdays/Anniversaries/Deployments***

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Sentence**

**BCP 343**

**Celebrant:** Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

*(Please drop your offering in the plate as it comes by)*

**Offertory Meditation**

**Organ/Piano**

**See Insert**

*(The Priest prepares the table as the offering plate is passed)*

**Doxology (acapella)**

**Hymnal 380, v.3**

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

**The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer II**

**BCP 340**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People** ***And with thy spirit.***

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People** ***It is meet and right so to do.***

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**The Sanctus** *(spoken)*

**Celebrant and People**

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:***

***Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.***

***Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.***

***Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***