

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Christmas Day
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we gather on this day of day to celebrate the gifting of Emmanuel, God among us, we acknowledge that our parish sits on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin peoples.

People: May we live together in harmony and reconciliation in the Light.

Fr. Michael: Show Me the Way

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of shadows, the light has dawned. ... For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9: 2, 6)

Fr. Michael: Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little word – LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us on that first Christmas and love descended from heaven to be born of Mary. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a small barn in Bethlehem. All your love was robed in the delicate skin of a baby in swaddling clothes. Thank you, Father, for loving us enough to send your Son Jesus, Love of love, Light of light and Hope of hope.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

Fr. Michael: Glory to God in the highest,

All: 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. 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. 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.

Fr. Michael: O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith shine in our hearts and in all our words and deeds;

through him who is Christ our Lord and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen

Fr. Michael: Lord, we offer ourselves to you on this day of days, for all the work that you want done, for all the people you want us to meet, for the words you want us to speak, for the silence you want us to keep, for the places you want us to enter and for the new ways you want us to create. Go with us on the way and help us to make your presence real at all times and in all places, for the sake of our loving Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St Luke. (St. Luke 2: 1-20)

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Fr. Michael: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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. 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. Amen

Fr. Michael: Holy Jesus, by being born one of us and lying in a manger, you show how much God loved the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts until we reach our home in heaven and see you on your throne of glory. Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by angels. Be with all those who are lonely and lost this day, for those who alone and for all those who wander our streets seeking food, shelter and love. Jesus, Lord of Love

People: in your mercy hear us.

Fr. Michael: Jesus, as you healed the sick, bring healing to those in our families and in our community who are sick, remembering especially Marjorie, Richard and Deb L., Louise, Howard, Irene, Zachariah, Beth, Roy, Sarah, Cheryl and Jeanette. In a moment of silence Lord, we hold before you those who have asked us to pray for them; Jesus, Lord of Love,

People: in your mercy, hear us

Fr. Michael: Christ born for us, Son of God given to us, help us to know you and worship and serve you. We ask you to watch over Shane our Bishop, Kathryn our Archdeacon, Carol our Regional Dean, all the clergy of our diocese and especially our deanery of Carleton; Jesus, Lord of Love

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Fr. Michael: Christ, for whom there was no room at an inn, watch over all refugees and displaced persons, all victims of our inhuman acts against others, those who have no bread to eat or water to drink; Jesus, Lord of Love,

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Fr. Michael: Lord of Life and Lord of the Church, hear our prayer and make us one in heart and soul to serve You with joy forever.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: May the peace of the Lord Jesus be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

Fr. Michael: Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son Jesus, increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed for us in him, who is Lord now and for ever.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you,**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

People: 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

Fr. Michael: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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.

Fr. Michael: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

All: **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Fr. Michael: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: As the Lord Jesus has gifted to his church, so we pray,

All: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Michael: We break the bread of life and that life is the light of the world.

All: **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Fr. Michael: We Share The Gifts Of God For The Children Of God

All: **Thanks Be to God**

Fr. Michael: Father of all, the child born for us this day is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Our souls magnify the Lord! All is ready – stable prepared, shepherds working, magi on their way; gifts are chosen. Our souls magnify the Lord! A city awaits, crowded and bustling; stars are shining, people expecting, a drama unfolding.

Fr. Michael: Our souls magnify the Lord! The Lord is coming to save all his people – Mary's obedience, Jesus' willingness - your gracious gift to us. Our souls magnify the Lord! Gracious God, you have done so much for us and we so little in return. You ask for humility and we offer you a proud people; you ask for willingness and we are often a stubborn people; you ask for repentance and we are often a deaf people; you ask for service and we are often a too busy people. Gracious God, you want the best for us so teach us obedience, grant us forgiveness so that we, like Mary, will become your willing servants. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Glory to God,

All: **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

Fr. Michael: May the blessings of joy live within us; may the blessings of peace rest in

us; may the blessings of love flow out through us; may all the blessings of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit be with us this Christmastide and all the days of our lives.

All: **Amen and Alleluia!**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

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