

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

22405 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 | www.NativityScottsdale.org | 480-307-9216

Our Mission: To transform lives with the love of God In Jesus Christ.

All are welcome! No Exceptions!



May 18, 2025 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Celebrant

8 am & 10 am - The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes. Scent-Free Seating in the Nave - Because some folks have allergy issues, we have created a scent-free section in the front left part of the sanctuary. Please sit in that section only if you are free of scented items such as perfume, hairspray, after-shave, body spray, hand lotion, etc. It's an act of hospitality.

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity is situated on the ancestral land of the Huhugam and Salado people and present day O'odham, Yavapai, and Apache people who traveled throughout this land. We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Tribal communities - past and present - for their ongoing stewardship of this land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

During the 8 service:

Opening Hymn

Opening Acclamation Prayerbook 323

Song of Praise Prayerbook 324

Collect of the Day Prayerbook 173

During the 10 service:

Morning Has Broken

Hymnal 8 vs. 1-3

Prayerbook 299

Hymnal #178 Alleluia

Prayerbook 225

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.

These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm 148 *Let us read it responsively by whole verse.*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

2 **Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 **Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

6 **He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 **Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 **Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

12 **Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.**

13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 **He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Gospel Hymn: *We know that Christ is raised* Hymnal 296

(vs. 1-2 before the Gospel, 3-4 afterwards)

Gospel: John 13:31-35

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon: The Youth of Nativity (*a few moments of silence follow the sermon*)

Nicene Creed Prayerbook 326 (8 am only)

Prayers of the People (8 am only)

Leader: Glorious, creating, and sustaining God; who made and cares for the world with love and mercy; hear and answer the prayers of your people as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Encourage and embolden us, your people, that we might fully live into our potential and take up Christ's healing mission with courage and persistence. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Open the hearts of those who hold authority in the world that they might focus their gaze and attention on policies that promote peace, wellness, and the relief of suffering. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to see the needs of those we encounter in our daily lives and grant us a desire for generosity that we might respond with love and mercy. Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant us wisdom and determination to respond effectively to climate change; help us reclaim our intended role as stewards, and not destroyers, of your wonderfully created world. Lord, in your mercy.

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bring your healing presence to all who suffer in any way. Give them strength to cope and bring skilled and healing caregivers into their lives. Lord, in your mercy.

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Be with those who are in their last days, those who watch over them, and those who will grieve their loss. Take them into your eternal care and reunite us with them in your new age. Lord, in your mercy.

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, Creation sings your praise in its very being. Help us to hear the song and to add our own voices. Be present to us and guide us on the Way of your Son, our Lord, Jesus, through whom we pray and give thanks.

***People:* Amen.**

During the 8:00 service:

The Peace

During the 10:00 service:

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates Prayerbook 301

The Baptismal Covenant Prayerbook 304

Prayers for the Candidates Prayerbook 305

The Baptism Prayerbook 307

The Peace

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

During the 8 service: During the 10 service:

Offertory Music

Joy In the House, Kenn Mann
Nativity Choir

Doxology

Hymnal #380 v. 3 - *Praise God*

The Great Thanksgiving Prayerbook 340

Prayer A - Prayerbook 361

Sanctus Prayerbook 341

Hymnal #S129 *Holy, holy holy*

The Lord's Prayer Prayerbook 336

Prayerbook 364

Breaking of the Bread Prayerbook 337

Hymnal #S154 *Alleluia*

The Invitation to Communion

All who seek God are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the Bread and Wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Even if you do not seek God, God seeks you. For those who would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms-down. If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, fold your arms across your chest. Healing prayers and prayers of Intercession are available during the 10 am service in the Prayer Chapel during Communion.

During the 8 service: During the 10 service:

Communion

How Great Is Our God,
Chris Tomlin,
Nativity Choir & People
Prayerbook 365

Post-Communion Prayer Prayerbook 339

The Easter Blessing

Closing Hymn

He's Got the Whole World
Traditional, with the
Nativity Children

Dismissal

*The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God,
in joyous celebration of my birthday,
thank you for another trip around the sun,
by Kathy Graf*



Summer Church Begins Next Week

9 am Sundays & 5 pm Second Saturdays (Begins June 14)

Ladies' Luncheon

All ladies are invited to a luncheon at noon on **May 21** at *Soul Cafe*, 7615 E Pinnacle Peak Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255. Please rsvp to Janyce Schneider at janycecarroll6@cox.net,

Choir News

Beginning the **25th of May**, the choir is on hiatus for the summer and will resume on **September 7**. Please join us in Christopher Hall following the service as we thank Polina for her years of beautiful music in the Nativity Choir.

Foothills CaringCorp - Volunteers Needed

On **June 5** we will be hosting a luncheon for our neighbors in the Foothills CaringCorp. We need volunteers to help setup, serve, and clean up that day. Please contact Brenda Burke if interested. Text: (602) 448-1109 or email: bburke11@gmail.com.