



April 17, 2025

4:30 pm Meal

Service Immediately Following Dinner

Church of the Holy Nativity

4238 Pimlico Road

Baltimore, Maryland 21215

www.holynativitybaltimore.org

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer

Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh

OPENING HYMN

H480 – *When Jesus Left His Father's Throne*

1 When Jesus left his Father's throne,
he chose an humble birth;
like us, unhonored and unknown,
he came to dwell on earth.
Like him may we be found below,
in wisdom's path of peace;
like him in grace and knowledge grow
as years and strength increase.

2 Sweet were his words and kind his look,
when mothers round him pressed;
their infants in his arms he took,
and on his bosom blessed.
Safe from the world's alluring harms,
beneath his watchful eye,
thus in the circle of his arms
may we for ever lie.

3 When Jesus into Zion rode,
the children sang around;
for joy they plucked the palms and strowed
their garments on the ground.
Hosanna our glad voices raise,
hosanna to our King!
Should we forget our Savior's praise,
the stones themselves would sing.

When Jesus left his Father's throne, #480 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: *Kingsfold*, English folk melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

KYRIE

S96

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance

of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Listen for the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Listen for the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

1 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter,
I am the clay!
Mold me and make me
After thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

LEVAS 145 -- *Have Thine Own Way* (v. 1-2)

2 Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Master, today!
Purer than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in thy presence
Humbly I bow.

THE GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot

to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 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."

SEQUENCE HYMN

3 Have thine own way, Lord!
 Have thine own way!
 Wounded and weary,
 Help me, I pray!
 Power all power
 Surely is thine!
 Touch me and heal me,
 Savior divine!

LEVAS 145 -- *Have Thine Own Way* (v. 3-4)

4 Have thine own way, Lord!
 Have thine own way!
 Hold o'er my being
 Absolute sway!
 Fill with thy Spirit
 'Til all shall see
 Christ only, always,
 Living in me!

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!, #145 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Adelaide A. Pollard (1862-1934). Music: George C. Stebbins (1846-1945).

HOMILY

The Rev. Karen Mercer

Following the homily, let us pause in silence as we reflect on God's holy word.

FOOT WASHING HYMN

LEVAS 74 – *Jesu, Jesu*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.*

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.

Refrain

3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Refrain

4 Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

Refrain

5 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu, #74 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: John 13:1-17; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969. Music: Ghana Folk Song; adapt. Tom Colvin 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988. Copyright © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

THE CEREMONY OF THE WASHING OF THE FEET

BCP 274

Everyone is invited to take part in this symbolic act, which for many can be extremely moving. Mother Karen will first wash the feet of the first person, and that will wash the feet of Mother Karen. Before coming forward, remove your shoes, and socks/stockings while still at your seat. Merely sit in one of the chairs and your feet will be washed. You will wash the next person's feet. This simple and intimate act brings to life what the disciples must have felt when Jesus knelt down to wash their feet. It makes Jesus' new commandment to love one another real and impactful.

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples:

That you have love for one another.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: On this night, the Lord Jesus was handed over to sinners. Let us pray to his Father on behalf of all for whom he died, saying: God, who washed us in the blood of your Son, have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son, have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son, have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: For Donald, our President, Wes, our Governor, and Brandon, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son, have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Clarify your church's insight into your presence in the world, and enable every human being to see in our fellowship the sign of your new covenant. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Teach our national and local leaders the power of humility, and enable them to work selflessly for the good of all. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Reconcile the divided Christian churches, and grant peace to nations and religious groups hostile to one another. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Come to the aid of the earth's starving peoples, and give them their rightful share of the food you lavish on all your creatures. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Heal the bodies of the wounded and diseased. Heal the hearts of those betrayed by their loved ones. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Rashad, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, and Aldwyn, Gilma and Irene. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: Forgive the sins of this people which calls on you; let the bread we break and the cup we drink save us from evil and free us to obey your word. God, who washed us in the blood of your Son,

Have mercy upon us.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

Celebrant: God our Savior, hear the prayers of your family, gathered to proclaim the death of your Son until he comes. Pour forth on all humankind your blessings of life, harmony, and true freedom, through Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

Senior Warden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Karen Mercer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

LEVAS 152 – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let Us Break Bread Together, #152 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 ...

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

S125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 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 [sing],

LORD’S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S158

**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.**

COMMUNION HYMN

1 I need thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine
Can peace afford.

*I need thee, O I need thee,
Ev'ry hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my savior,
I come to thee.*

2 I need thee ev'ry hour,
Stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their power
When thou art nigh.

LEVAS 192 – *I Need Thee Every Hour* *Refrain*

3 I need thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.

Refrain

4 I need thee ev'ry hour,
Teach me thy will,
And thy rich promises
In me fulfill.

Refrain

I Need Thee Every Hour, #192 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918). Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899).

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

PROCESSION TO ALTAR OF REPOSE

HYMN

H171 – *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away,
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn of him to bear the cross.

3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Go to dark Gethsemane, #171 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: *Petra*, Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

STRIPPING OF ALTAR

Psalm 22 -- *Deus, Deus meus*

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

**13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.**

**14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

**15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.**

**16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.**

**17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.**

**18 Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.**

**19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.**

**20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.**

**21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.**

**22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

**23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.**

**24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**

**25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**

**26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

**27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**

**28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

**29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

**30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

Leave in silence.

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Rashad, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus, Shirley, Silma, Aldwyn, William, Deja, Joy, Gilma, and Irene.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

Soup, Sandwich & Prayer
Wednesdays – Noon -1:15 pm, Hope House

April 18	Good Friday 12 Noon at St. Mary the Virgin 3121 Walbrook Ave. Baltimore
April 19	Spring Into Success: Book Bag & Supplies Giveaway – Greenspring Overlook Community Center – 1-2:30 pm
April 20	Easter Service at 10 am
April 26	Financial Literacy – Saving & Budgeting 3-5 pm

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
