SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JANUARY 8, 2017  
FEAST OF THE EPHOPY WITH PAGEANT  
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II — 10:00 A.M.  
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THE WORD OF GOD
The opening music offers a time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all devices.

GATHERING MUSIC
Variations on “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”  D. Buxtehude
Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND RESPONSE
Celebrant  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

HYMNAL #109  THE FIRST NOWELL  The Magi crèche figures arrive at the stable.

COLLECT FOR PURITY
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. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS  (Hymn #96, vss. 1 & 3)
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People  And also with you.
Celebrant  O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People  Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Good News of Great Joy

SCENE I: The Prophecy of Isaiah
CAROL
sung by all at the end of this scene
O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,  
free them from Satan’s tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save,  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SCENE II: The Annunciation
CAROL
sung by all at the end of this scene
Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Everymore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
Everymore and evermore!

SCENE III: The Nativity

SCENE IV: The Shepherds

SCENE V: The Magi
CAROL
sung by all at the end of this scene
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.  

NICENE CREED  Please stand, if able.  Book of Common Prayer p. 358
Reader  Incarnate God,
People  Hear our prayer.
Reader  Gracious God:  All
By your love you have called us to proclaim with joy  
the good news of your Son: So build us up in the knowledge  
and love of Him, that we may welcome all people into this  
community of faith, and show forth our service to you  
in our service to others; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.  (Collect for St. John’s)

THE PEACE
Please stand, if able.
Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.

WELCOME
Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
All are invited to share at the Lord’s table. At the altar railings you may stand or kneel to receive the bread and the wine. You may drink from the cup or touch the bread to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing you may indicate so by crossing your arms.  
The common loaf is gluten free.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
SOLO  Geistliches Wiegenlied (Holy Cradle Song)  J. Brahms

You that hover over the palm trees in night and wind,  
O all ye angels, who fly above us in the wind,  
You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRESENTATION
sung by all, standing if able

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

1 2
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

The prayer may be followed in the BCP on p. 367.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Celebrant It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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 where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. …

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution

Communion Music

HYMNAL #119  As With Gladness  DIX

HYMNAL #124  What Star Is This  Puer Nobis

HYMNAL #135  Songs of Thankfulness and Praise  Salzburg

HYMNAL #112  In the Bleak Midwinter  Cranham

Post Communion Prayer

said by all, kneeling or standing

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace.

May the child of Nazareth bring you joy.

May the man of Galilee bring you strength; the Christ of Calvary bring you courage; and the ascended Lord a foretaste of his glory.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

People Amen.

Deacon Our worship here is ended; now let our service begin.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Fantasy on “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

J. Pachelbel

You are invited to move forward to the choir stalls for the final music.