



# NATIVITY CHURCH

Embraced — Equipped — Empowered



ORDER  
*of*  
WORSHIP

## The Season of Advent

Nativity Church *in*  
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
*of the Episcopal Church*

## Welcome and Entering God's Presence

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit  
People: And Blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

### Collect of Purity

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Trisagion

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

### Hearing God's Word

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
*(Please be seated)*

### First Reading

Reader: The word of the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God**

### The Response

#### The Epistle

Reader: The word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

### The Holy Gospel

*Please stand as you are able)*

Celebrant: The holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## Sermon

*(Please be seated)*

## Responding to God's Word

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## 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. 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

*(Please kneel as you are able)*

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

**People: Pray for the Church.**

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

**People: Pray for justice and peace.**

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

**People: Pray for those in any need or trouble.**

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

**People:** Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for the departed

**People:** Pray for those who have died.

Celebrant: Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

**People:** Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

### Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## The Peace

(please stand)

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

People: And also with you.

## Parish Life Announcements

### Celebrating the Lord's Supper

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Therefore we praise you, Joining our voices with  
Angels and Archangels and with all the company of  
Heaven, who forever sing this hymn 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.

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

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:  
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, Forever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us;  
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion.*

All: Almighty and ever living 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 forever. Amen.

### The Blessing

#### Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia,  
Alleluia!

People: **Ordinary People empowered to live  
Extraordinary Lives!  
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

FAITH HOPE LOVE JOY





**Nativity Church** *in*

**THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

*of the Episcopal Church*

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