

The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



("Christ Preaching in the Temple," Russian icon, tempera on wood, c.1800)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Shelley Martin-Grimes
Music Director: Jim Bailiff

Serving Today

Lector: Jonathon Grimes
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford
Prayer Leader: Leah Couch
Chalice Bearer: Barbara Redheffer
Ushers: DeeAnn Schaeffer and Leigh Rogers
Children's SS: Stephanie Shell
Altar Guild: Lisa McNeese and Leigh Rogers
Vestry on Duty: DeeAnn Schaeffer

At the Church of the Nativity, we believe God's love is tremendously powerful, and has a profound effect on individuals, the community, and the world. Our desire is to experience and share God's love so that we may be changed and be the change in the world around us.

We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 11 a.m.
and you are invited to join us.

You are God's beloved child! Thanks be to God!

The Church of the Nativity
1201 Cross Street
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742
706-866-9773 (Office)
nativityfto@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026 11:00 a.m.

As we prepare for worship, we invite you to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and of the connection we share as prayerful members of the Body of Christ.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: #477 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine

Presider: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider: 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.**

ALL: S-280 (Service music section in the beginning of the hymnal)

Glory to God in the highest, 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.

Presider: The Lord be with you. People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Sunday School

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 78 in unison.

Hear my teaching, O my people;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,

and what our forefathers have told us,

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through;

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day,

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

**He brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Lector: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death--

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: #435 At the name of Jesus (v 1-4)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon:

Rev. Shelley Martin-Grimes

The Creed and Prayers

Presider: Let us affirm our faith together in the words of 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.

Leader: Prayers of the People, Form III
Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve
you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the
world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble,
including those on our parish prayer list (names here ...) and those we
now name.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest (especially... names from prayer list are included here and a pause for congregation to remember others).
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, either silently or aloud.

*The Presider adds a concluding Collect. People: **Amen.***

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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. People: **Amen.**

Please stand as you are comfortable and able.

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

People: **And also with you.**

The congregation offers one another a sign of peace

Announcements

Offertory

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology **Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host,**

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Presider, faces them and says:

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Presider:

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

After the Proper Preface, the Presider continues

...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:

Presider and People

S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.

People now stand or kneel.

Presider

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love
which you have made known to us in creation.....

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father

Presider and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this

bread and this wine....

...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 say,
**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcomed with great joy to the Lord's table. To receive the bread, hold both hands over the altar rail and take the wafer. To receive the wine, either drink from the cup or dip the bread. To receive a blessing, come to the rail with both hands crossed over your chest.

Post Communion Prayer Presider: Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving 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.**

The Presider gives the blessing

Closing Hymn: **#344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing**

The Presider says the dismissal

Presider: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude