

The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



(“Christ and St. Mary Magdalen at the Tomb,” Rembrandt, oil on canvas, 1638)

Easter

April 5, 2026

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Celebrant: The Rev. Susan Butler
Music Director: Jim Bailiff
Vocalist: Sophia Hassevort

Serving Today

Lector: JoLynn Bennett
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford
Prayer Leader: Leah Couch
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver
Ushers: Nannette Brass and Leigh Rogers
Children's SS: Stephanie Shell
Altar Guild: Lisa McNeese
Vestry on Duty: Doug Wood

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
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CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Easter April 5, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

“Hail thee, festival day” -- choir

Opening Hymn: #207 Jesus Christ is risen today

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant and People **S-280**

(service music section at beginning of 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 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.**

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant

that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lector: A reading from the book of Acts.

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 118 together.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.**

**Let Israel now proclaim,
"His mercy endures for ever."**

**The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.**

**There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:**

**"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"**

**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely,
but he did not hand me over to death.
Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
"This is the gate of the Lord;
he who is righteous may enter."
I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

"The Holy City" – Sophia Hassevort, vocalist

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

Colossians 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

Gospel Hymn: **#199 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain**

Celebrant/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter

came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Celebrant/Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Rev. Susan Butler

The Creed and Prayers

Celebrant/Deacon: Let us profess 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: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may
be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal
your glory in the world.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Brian our Bishop, and Susan our
Celebrant. We pray for Resurrection parish in Loudon, TN; for St. Paul,
Norris, SD; for Trinity, Mission, SD; and for St. Thomas, Corn Creek, SD.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another
and serve the common good.

We pray for our national leaders, Donald our President, J.D. our Vice
President, our senators and representatives and our Supreme Court.

We pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East. Are there other
places or peoples?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant
that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he
loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them
courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your
salvation.

We pray for those on our prayer list (...names read here...). Are there
others?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them
may be fulfilled (...names from prayer list here, and a pause for
congregation to remember others...) and we pray that we may share
with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory: "Hodie" -- choir

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 D

BCP 372

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

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.**

After the Proper Preface, the Celebrant continues:

...Joining with them and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Celebrant 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)

...from the gifts you have given us, this bread, and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People:

We praise you, we bless you,

We give thanks to you,

And we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

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.

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 Celebrant: 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 Celebrant gives the blessing

Closing Hymn: **#182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing**

The Celebrant/Deacon says the dismissal

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude