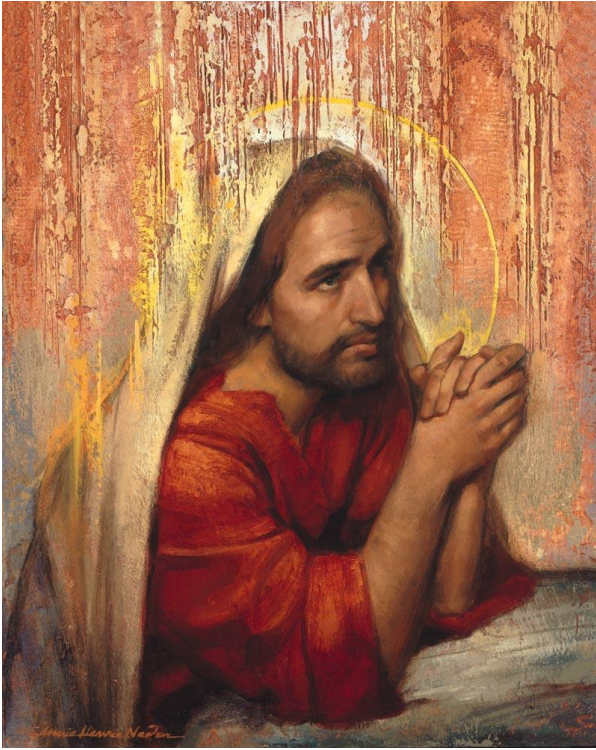


The Church of the Nativity

Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia



(*Advocate*," Annie Nader, textured print, 2026)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

Welcome to the Church of the Nativity.

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Celebrant: The Rev. Susan Butler
Guest Organist: Elsilynn Barber

Serving Today

Lector: Nannette Brass
Server & Acolyte: Angeline and Alex Swafford
Prayer Leader: JoLynn Bennett
Chalice Bearer: Butch Shaver
Ushers: Nannette Brass and Leah Couch
Children's SS: DeeAnn Schaeffer
Altar Guild: Laura Wood and Becky Brown
Vestry on Duty: Butch Shaver

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
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 am until 1 pm
706-866-9773 (Office)
nativityfto@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 17, 2026 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: #460 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. **Acts 1:6-14**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Lector: Let us pray a portion of Psalm 68 together.

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;

let those who hate him flee before him.

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;

as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

let them also be merry and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;

exalt him who rides upon the heavens;

YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

Father of orphans, defender of widows,

God in his holy habitation!

**God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
Ascribe power to God;
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
How wonderful is God in his holy places!
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

Lector: A reading from the first book of Peter. **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Hymn: **#307 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendor**

Celebrant/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **John 17:1-11**

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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 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: 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 Ascension in Knoxville; for St. Clare in LaFollette; for Emmanuel in Rapid City, SD; for St. Matthew in Rapid City, SD; for St. Katherine in Martin, SD; for Gethsemane in Wanblee, SD; and for Christ church in Red Shirt Table, 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.

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. We pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.

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 prayers list (names 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; 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.**

(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 Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

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.**

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.

After the Proper Preface, the Celebrant 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:

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)

Celebrant

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

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant 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 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: **#495 Hail thou once despised Jesus**

The Celebrant/Deacon says the dismissal

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