

# Christmas Eve

*Sung Mass at 3:30 pm*



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**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS** are given to the glory of God and in Thanksgiving for: The Nativity of our Lord, and looking for his coming again in glory. For the Intercessions of the Saints, in particular the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Thomas our Patron, for God's faithfulness and provision, for family, parents, friends, loved ones, for the birth of a child, for birthdays, for St. Thomas's parishioners, clergy, friends & associates, and in memory of those known only to God.

## Welcome!

On behalf of everyone who claims St. Thomas's as their spiritual home, we are happy you are with us, whether in person or via our livestream. If you are a visitor or newcomer, or even a longtime parishioner, but find it awkward or difficult to stand or kneel at the places indicated, remaining seated is perfectly acceptable. Please assume the posture most conducive to prayer throughout this service, or simply observe.

St. Thomas's has many peculiar ways that we cherish and are happy to share. If there seems to be no rhyme or reason for something, there might not be! But feel free to ask anyone after the service; it usually makes for entertaining conversation.

You are not obliged to engage any of us in conversation, though you should know that pretty much everyone here is happy to do so when we gather. You can always slip away without any judgement. We seem to have a lot of introverts here, so we understand the energy it takes to put yourself out there. Even if you're a raging extrovert, the experience of church can be disorienting. Relax and be yourself. Believe it or not, whether from near or far, God has led you here today. We want to honour what God is up to in your life, and we are here for you as you (re-) discover the joy and the challenge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nathan Humphrey, Rector

*Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion, indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.*



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit [qrco.de/smokytoms](http://qrco.de/smokytoms). Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

**Celebrant & Homilist:** Fr Humphrey  
**Reader:** Matt Aggus  
**Intercessor:** John Fraser  
**Interim Director of Music & Organist:** Elizabeth Anderson

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**MUSIC OF THE MASS:** Community Mass, *Richard Proulx*

**VOLUNTARIES:** Den die Hirten lobten sehre, *Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)*  
Zu Bethlehem geboren, *Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)*

*All stand at the ringing of the bell for the entrance of the ministers.*

**HYMN 77 - Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*
  
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*MENDELSSOHN*  
*From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*The People remain standing.*

## **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

*The People and Choir sing:*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

*f*  
Glo - ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly  
king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for\_ your glo - ry.  
*p*  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on  
us; you are\_ seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:  
re - ceive our pray'r,\_\_\_ re - ceive,\_\_\_ re - ceive our pray'r.

*f*  
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone  
 lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus  
 Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.  
 A - - - men. A - - - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The People remain seated as the Choir sings the psalm.*

## PSALM 96.1-3, 11-13

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## THE EPISTLE: Titus 2.11-14

A reading from St Paul's Epistle to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand. The choir will sing the first three Alleluias, followed by the people; a cantor will sing the verse and then all sing the final three Alleluias.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia. I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1.1-14**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The People sit.*

## **SERMON**

*After the Sermon, the People remain seated for a period of silent reflection, standing when the Celebrant stands.*

## **THE NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**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: *(Bow.)* by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. *(Rise.)***



**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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 People may remain standing.*

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

*Celebrant:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Intercessor:* Father, your son, our Saviour, was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. We pray for Andrew our bishop, and for all who minister to God's people.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for justice and peace in Toronto and all the world. We pray for the King and all set in civil authority in this country, province, and city.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

There was no room for your son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. We pray for the poor of this city and land, and all those who are without shelter this night.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Your Son, born of Mary, brought healing to the sick and those in need. Hold in your hand all who are sick, in pain, or distress.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. We pray for all who have died in recent days, and those whose years' mind is at this time, and all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:*

Heavenly Father, your angels sent shepherds to worship at the manger. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the saints, through him who is the Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **INVITATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*The People bow or kneel. Silence is kept.*

**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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The People and Choir sing:*

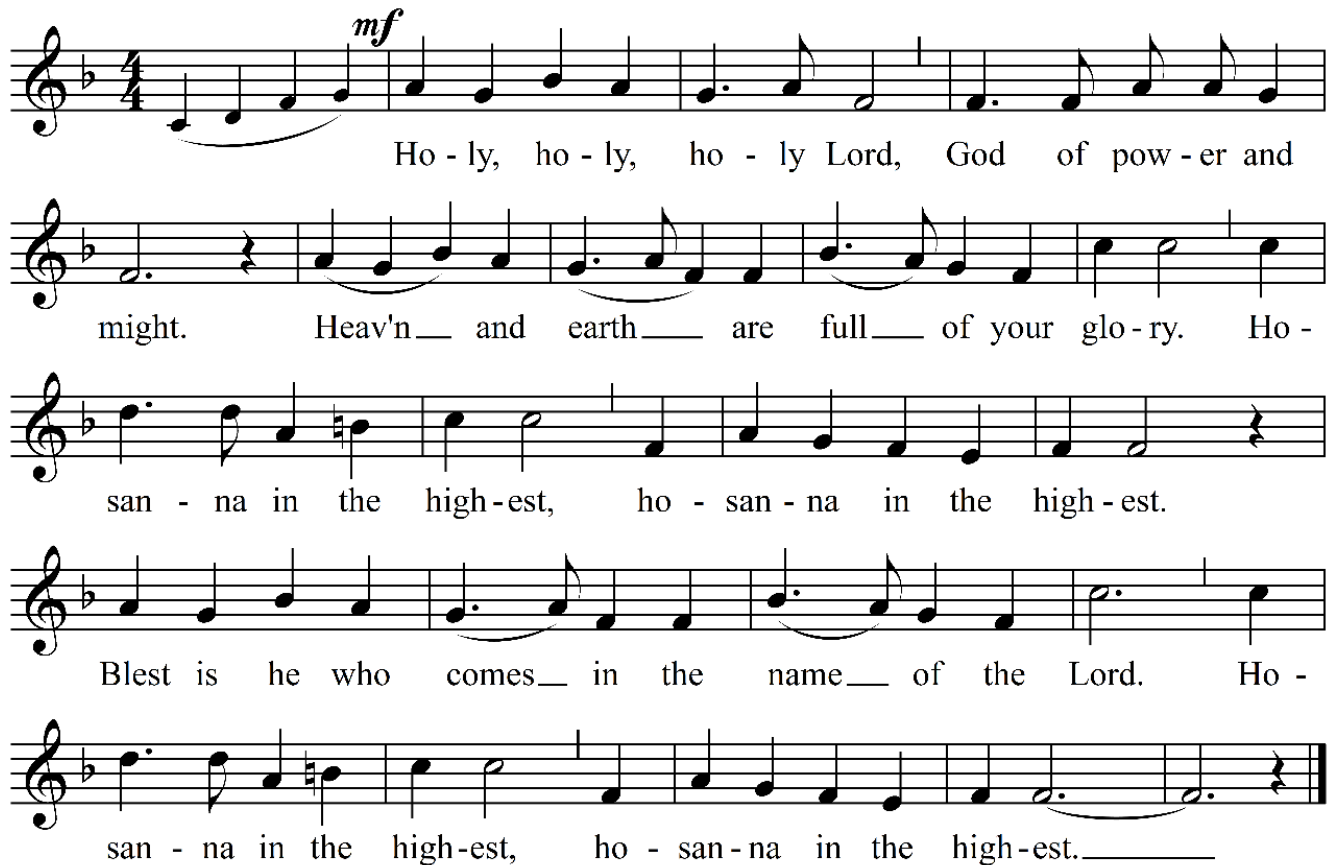
### OFFERTORY HYMN 82 - O little town of Bethlehem

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven:  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in;  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the heavenly angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel.



*The People and Choir sing:*

### SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



*mf*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The People remain standing.*

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command:

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

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Music by McNeil Robinson*

*Celebrant* *People*

As our Sa - viour taught us, let us pray, Our Fa - ther in heav - en,  
hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - give us our sins  
as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,  
and the glo - ry are — yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The People and Choir sing:*

## AGNUS DEI

*mp*  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world, grant us\_\_\_ peace.

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

*All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion as directed by the Sidespeople. Please receive the host (bread) on the right palm of the hand (supported underneath by the left palm). To receive the cup, gently guide with your hand the base of the chalice. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the host into the cup), as diocesan policy does not allow us to do so.*

*Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.*

*If you have not been baptized or are not receiving communion, please cross your arms over your chest in the shape of an X to receive a blessing. If you are not receiving from the cup, please pause to reverence it with a bow before returning to your pew.*

*If you wish to inquire about baptism for yourself or your child, we would love to speak with you!*

**MOTET:** 'In the bleak mid-winter,' *Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago. Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him Nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful of hay; Enough for him whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore. What can I give him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

**COMMUNION DEVOTIONS**

*An Act of Spiritual Communion, which may be prayed silently by those not receiving:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

**ANIMA CHRISTI**

*The following devotion may be prayed silently by communicants and non-communicants.*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesu, hear me.  
Within thy wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.  
From the malicious enemy defend me.  
In the hour of my death call me.  
And bid me come to thee,  
That with thy saints I may praise thee,  
For ever and ever. Amen.



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

## DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his light and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## CONCLUDING HYMN 75 - O come, all ye faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
- 2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him.*

3 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:  
*O come, let us adore him.*

4 See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks,  
Draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him.*

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him.*

*ADESTE FIDELES*  
*J.F Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751*

*Tr from the 18th cent. Latin*  
*F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke, and others*

*The People may be seated. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence during and after the Voluntary.*

**VOLUNTARY:** Noël, cette journée, *Nicolas Lebègue (1630-1702)*