

Saint Thomas's Church

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 10:00 pm



The Mystical Nativity, Sandro Botticelli, 1500
The National Gallery, London

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. 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: Fr. Shire
Deacon & Homilist: Fr. Humphrey
Interim Director of Music & Organist: Elizabeth Anderson

MUSIC OF THE MASS: Missa 'Ad praesepe,' *George Malcolm (1917-1997)*

VOLUNTARIES AT 9:30 PM: Organ Recital

Den die Hirten lobten sehre, *Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)*

Zu Bethlehem geboren, *Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)*

Pastorale, from 24 Pièces en style libre, *Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

Desseins Éternels, *Olivier Messaien (1908-1992)*

In dulci jubilo, *Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

Vom himmel hoch, *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

In dulci jubilo, BWV 751, *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

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

Vom himmel hoch, *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

Throughout this booklet, the People match the pitch of the Minister on the underlined syllable.

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the entrance of the Choir and Sacred 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.'

Refrain:

*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.
Refrain

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.
Refrain

MENDELSSOHN
From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The People kneel.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Choir alone sings the Kyrie.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie Eleison.
Christe Eleison.
Kyrie Eleison.

The People stand. The Choir alone sings the Gloria.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest
at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the ✠ glory of God the Father. Amen

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus
bonæ voluntatis
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes
ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in ✠ gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

The People remain standing.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

The First Lesson is written in the ninth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the second verse.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

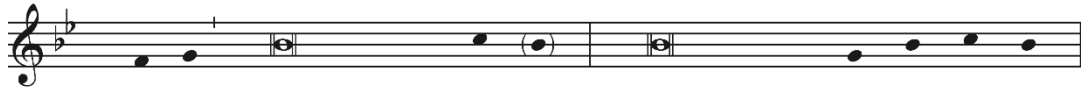
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People remain seated for the psalm.

PSALM 96.1-3, 11-13

VIII. 2.



Cantor 1 O SING unto the Lord a new **song** :

People sing unto the Lord, **all** the whole earth.

2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his **Name** : be telling of his salva-**tion** from day to^day.

Cantor 3 Declare his honour among the **na**-tions : and his wonders a-**mong** all peo-
ples.

People 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be **glad** : let the sea make a noise,
and all **that** is there-in.

Cantor 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is **in** it : then shall all the trees of the
wood re-**joice** be-fore the^Lord;

People 13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the **earth** : and with righteousness to
judge the world, and the **peo**-ples with his^truth.

THE EPISTLE: Titus 2.11-14

The Epistle is written in the second chapter of St Paul's epistle to Titus, beginning at the eleventh verse.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN 823 - From east to west

A solis ortus cardine

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Composed or adapted by
M Praetorius 1572-1621

1. From east to west, from shore to shore, Let ev' - ry
heart a - wake and sing The Ho - ly Child whom
Ma - ry bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing King.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Lower 2 Behold! the world's Creator wears
Voices The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our Maker shares,
His fallen creature, man, to save.

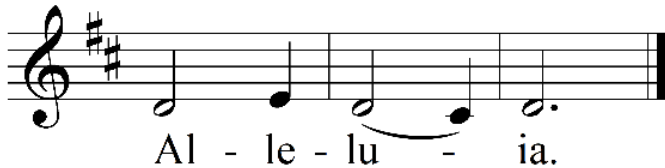
All 3 For this how wondrously he wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of his grace.

Upper 4 She bowed her to the angel's word
Voices Declaring what the Father willed,
And suddenly the promised Lord
That pure and hallowed temple filled.

All 5 He shrank not from the oxen's stall,
He lay within the manger bed,
And he whose bounty feedeth all
At Mary's breast himself was fed.

All 6 And while the angels in the sky
Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor, the Lord most high,
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.

All 7 All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be,
All praise to thee, O Virgin-born,
All praise, O Holy Ghost, to thee.



Translated from the Latin of Sedulius (c. 5th century) by Rev. John Ellerton.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1.1-14

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, beginning at the first verse.

Glory be to thee O Lord.

All who are able, kneel where indicated.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*Kneel.*)



And was cru - - ci - fi - ed al - so for_ us un - der Pon - tius Pi - late.



He suf - fer - ed and was bu - - - ri - ed, And the third day he rose a - gain



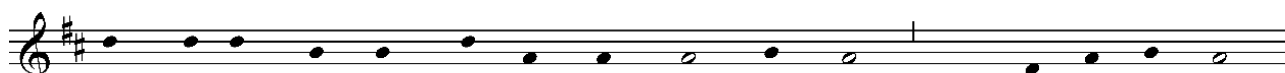
ac - cord - ing to the Scrip - tures, And as - cend - ed in - to hea - - - ven,



And sit - teth on the right hand of the Fath - er. And he shall come a - gain with glo - ry



to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose king - dom shall have no end.



And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost, The Lord, The Giv - er of Life,



Who pro - ceed - eth from the Fath - er and the Son, Who with the Fath - er and the Son



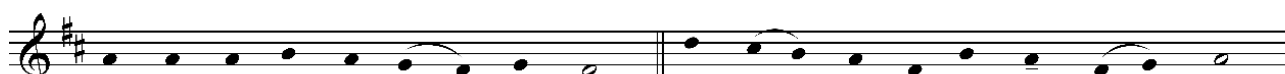
to - geth - er is wor - ship - ped and glo - ri - fi - ed, Who spake by the Pro - - phets.




And I be - lieve One, Ho - ly, Cath - o - lic, and A - po - sto - lic Church.



I ac - know - ledge one Bap - tism for the re - mis - sion of sins. And I look for



the Re - sur - rec - tion of_ the dead, And the_ Life of the world to_ come.



A - - - - - men.

OFFERTORY

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

The People remain standing for the hymn.

OFFERTORY HYMN - Of the Father's heart begotten

Corde natus ex parentis

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Melody from *Piae Cantiones*
Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582

Of the Fa - ther's heart be - got - ten, Ere the world from cha - os
rose, He is A - lpha: from that Foun - tain All that is and
hath been flows; He is O - me - ga, of all things
Yet to come the mys - tic Close, *Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.*

All 2 By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

Lower Voices 3 He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

Upper 4 O how blest that wondrous birthday,
Voices When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

Lower 5 This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Voices Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Upper 6 Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Voices Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.

All 7 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Translated from the Latin of Prudentius (348-413)
By R. F. Davis

The People stand as the thurifer approaches for the censuring.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept these our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation; and grant that by our communion with God made man we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our substance is united unto thee; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People kneel.

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light. Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Intercessor: On this holy night, Christ came among us in great humility. We pray for the Church, for Andrew our bishop, for _____ according to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for _____ according to the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, and for all the clergy and laity who serve God's people, especially in this parish; for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury and Linda our Primate.

Lord in thy mercy,
We beseech thee, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: On this holy night, the angels sang "on earth peace, good will toward men." We pray for the King and all in civil authority in this country, province, and city, that they may work for peace and promote the well-being of all.

Lord in thy mercy,
We beseech thee, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: On this holy night, the shepherds found the Christ Child lying in a manger, and Blessed Virgin Mary and Blessed Joseph: bless our homes and families, and all those we love. We give thanks for all that God has given us that we now name, silently or aloud _____. May we be guided by angels to God's abundant love for us all.

Lord in thy mercy,
We beseech thee, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: The darkness of this night is scattered with the light of Christ's presence: bring comfort to all who suffer, who grieve, who are alone, who are ill, who are poor or homeless, and who are oppressed. We pray for the sick, especially for _____, and we pray for those for whom we have been asked to pray, especially for _____.

Lord in thy mercy,
We beseech thee, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: In the Word made flesh, you have joined heaven and earth. We pray for those who have died in recent days, especially _____, and for those others whose year's mind is at this time _____. Keep in safety all those who have died that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in the joys of heaven.

Lord in thy mercy,
We beseech thee, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People remain kneeling.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first staff is divided into two parts: the first part is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you; And with thy spirit." The second staff is also divided into two parts: Celebrant and People. The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts; We lift them up unto the Lord." The third staff is divided into two parts: Celebrant and People. The lyrics are: "Let us give thanks unto our Lord God; It is meet and right so to do."

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

The Choir alone sings:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
✠ Blessed is he that cometh
in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth:
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
✠ Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

The Celebrant continues,

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee,



The musical notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo and mood are indicated by a common time signature (C). The notation is divided into two parts: 'Celebrant' and 'People'. The 'Celebrant' part consists of a series of quarter notes: O, Fa, ther, al, might, ty, world, with, out, end. The 'People' part consists of a single half note: A, men.

Celebrant *People*

O Fa - ther al - might - ty, world with - out ___ end. A - men. ___

THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Merbecke

Celebrant

The Celebrant greets the Deacon and Subdeacon with bows, and after they, bowing, pass the Peace to the People, the Sacred Ministers kneel for the Prayer of Humble Access.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All who intend to receive Holy Communion pray together:

We do not presume
to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

The Choir alone sings:

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, grant us thy peace.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant turns to face the People, and says,

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.
**Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof,
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

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!

COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

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

My Jesus, I believe that thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself unto thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from thee. Let me live and die in thy 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.

MOTETS

'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 (1830-94)

A solis ortus cardine, arr. Jacob P. Burtenshaw (b. 1998)

A solis ortus cardine adusque terrae limitem Christum canamus Principem, natum Maria Virgine. Beatus auctor saeculi servile corpus induit, ut carne carnem liberans non perderet quod condidit. Clausae parentis viscera caelestis intrat gratia; venter puellae baiulat secreta quae non noverat. Iesu, tibi sit gloria, qui natus es de Virgine, cum Patre et almo Spiritu, in sempiterna saecula. Amen.

From lands that see the sun arise, to earth's remotest boundaries, the Virgin-born today we sing, the Son of Mary, Christ the King. Blest Author of this earthly frame, to take a servant's flesh he came, that liberating flesh by flesh, whom he had made might live afresh. In that chaste parent's holy womb, celestial grace hath found its home: and she, as earthly bride unknown, yet call that offspring blest her own. All honour, laud, and glory be, O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee; all glory, as is ever meet, to Father and to Paraclete. Amen.

Written for The Choirs of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, December 2022
Text: Coelius Sedulius, Christian poet of the 5th C, (English translation by J. M Neale)

'Hodie Christus Natus Est,' *Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)*

Hodie Christus natus est. Noe, noe. Hodie Salvator apparuit, Alleluia. Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli. Noe, noe. Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia, Noe.

Today Christ is born. Noel, noel. Today the Saviour has appeared, Alleluia. Today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice, Noel, noel. Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the Highest. Alleluia. Noel.

From *Cantiones Sacrae*, Antwerp, 1619

The People and Choir sing.

HYMN 82 - O little town of Bethlehem

- All* 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.
- All* 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!
- Choir* 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.
- All* 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.

HYMN 739 - Silent night! Holy night!

- 1 Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin-Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
- 3 Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

STILLE NACHT
Franz Grüber 1787-1863

Joseph Mohr 1792-1848
Tr Jane Montgomery Cambell 1817-1878 and others

The People kneel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son didst humble himself to share our birth and our death, and who ever permittest us in these holy mysteries to draw near with gladness unto his holy Nativity: Bring us with the shepherds and wise men to kneel before his lowly cradle, that we may come to sing with thine angels his glorious praises in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 Ghost, be among you, and remain with you, always. **Amen.**

The People stand.

DISMISSAL

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

HYMN 75 - O come, all ye faithful

During this hymn, the Celebrant takes up the figure of the Christ Child from the High Altar and carries it in procession to the Crib.

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!

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.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Almighty and everlasting God, who for our salvation didst cause thine only-begotten Son to come down from heaven, and to be born of the blessed and glorious ever-Virgin Mary: Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to ✠ bless and hallow this crib, wherein are shown forth the wonders of that sacred birth; that all we who behold it shall ponder and adore the mystery of his holy Incarnation, and be fulfilled with thy heavenly benediction unto life eternal. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

ADESTE FIDELES
Melody probably by J.F. Wade 1711-86

Latin 18th century
Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 and others

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

VOLUNTARY: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729, *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*