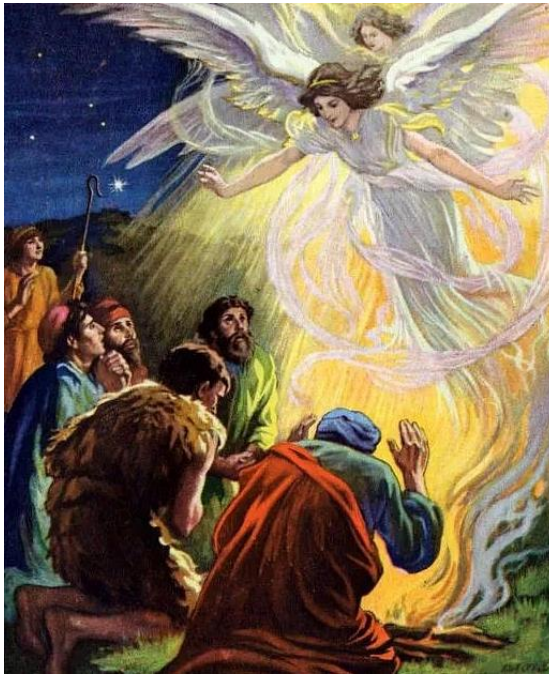


Saint Thomas's Church
Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 10:00 pm



An angel brings good tidings to the shepherds near Bethlehem.
Standard Bible Story, Book Two,
Illustration by O. A. Stemler and Bess Bruce Cleaveland,
published by The Standard Publishing Company, 1925.

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
383 Huron Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5
416-979-2323
www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

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/smokytops. 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. Nathan Humphrey
Deacon: Fr. James Shire
Reader: Janet Nichols
Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson
Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

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

ORGAN RECITAL VOLUNTARIES AT 9:30 PM

Overture to St. Paul, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
In dulci júbilo, Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
In dulci júbilo, BWV 729, J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Christum wir sollen loben schon (*A solis ortus cardine*), BWV 611, J.S. Bach
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
A Festive Voluntary (Variations on *Good King Wenceslas*),
Petr Eben (1929-2007)
The Holy Boy, John Ireland (1879-1962)

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 LESSON

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.

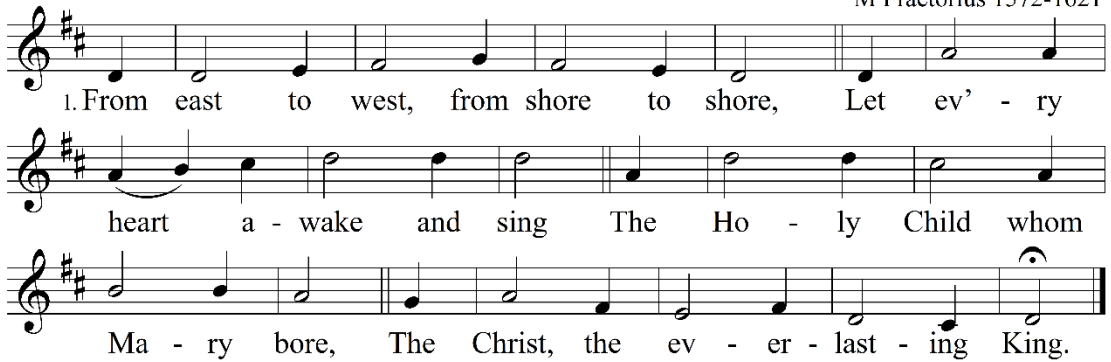
Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN 823 - From east to west

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.

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2.1-14,15-20

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

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

Glory be to thee O Lord.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For

unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The People sit at the invitation of the Preacher.

SERMON

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 SENTENCE

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.

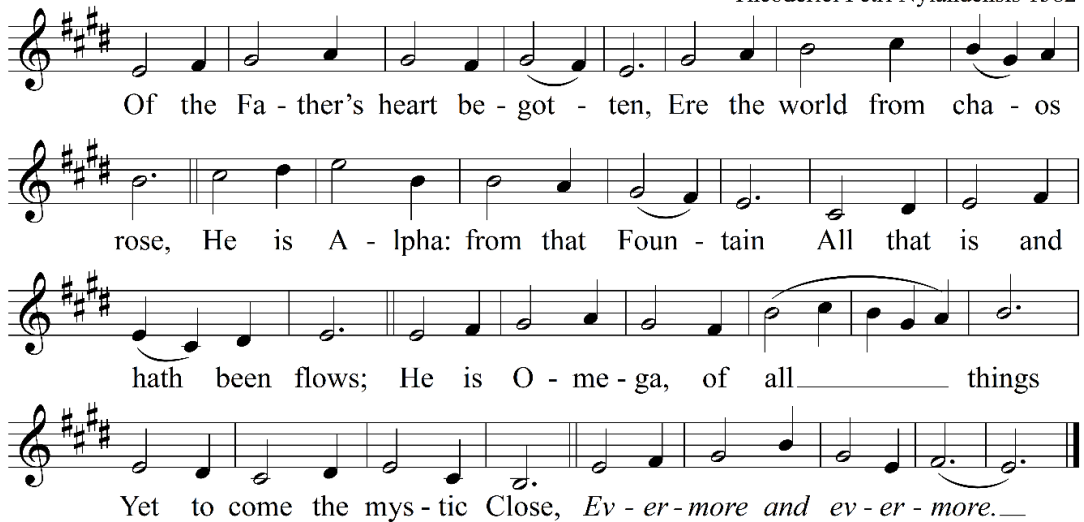
The People remain standing for the hymn.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Of the Father's heart begotten

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 3 He assumed this mortal body,
Voices 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.

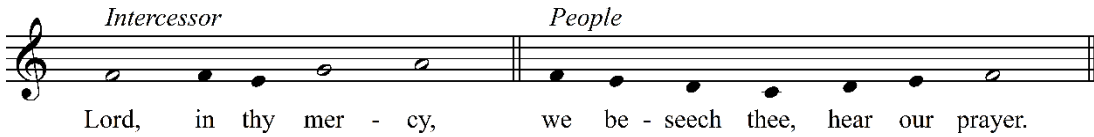
Upper 4 O how blest that wondrous birthday,
Voices When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

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.

Intercessor: On this holy night, the angels sang “on earth peace, good will toward men.” We pray for those places affected by war, conflict, calamity, or disaster, especially for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan. May the Prince of Peace deliver us from the shadow of war and disaster. (*Silence.*)



Intercessor *People*

Lord, in thy mer - cy, we be - seech thee, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: On this holy night, the holy family found no room for them in the inn. We pray for all those who are in need and those who serve them, for guests and volunteers of the Friday Food Ministry, and for all those who use drop-in programs, shelters, and food banks. May God open and make room in our hearts to all those in need. (*Silence.*)

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, [for _____, and all] that we now name, silently or aloud _____. May we be guided by angels to God’s abundant love for us all. (*Silence.*)

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 _____. (*Silence.*)

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 Joseph, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in the joys of heaven. (*Silence.*)

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.

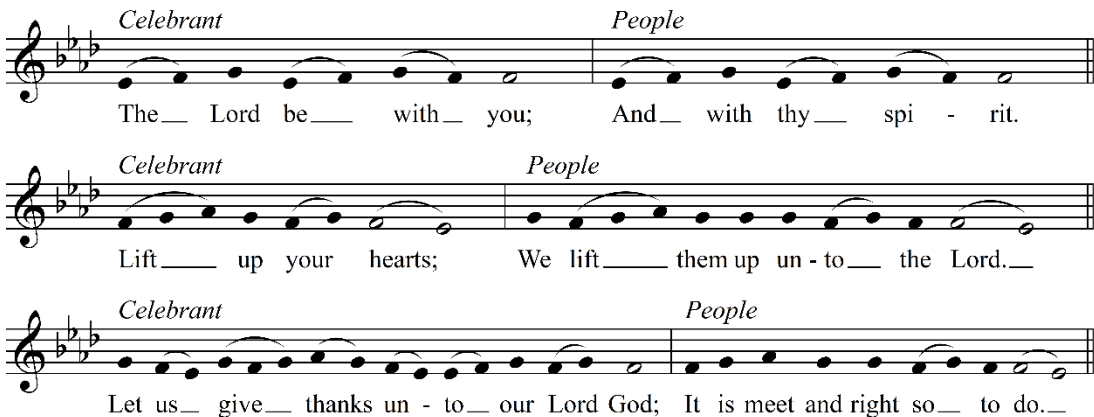
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily 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.

The Celebrant alone stands to impart the Absolution.

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



Celebrant *People*
The__ Lord be__ with__ you; And__ with thy__ spi - rit.

Celebrant *People*
Lift__ up your hearts; We lift__ them up un - to__ the Lord__

Celebrant *People*
Let us__ give__ thanks un - to__ 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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It is divided into two parts: 'Celebrant' and 'People'. The 'Celebrant' part consists of a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a half note G4. The 'People' part consists of a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.


Celebrant *People*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

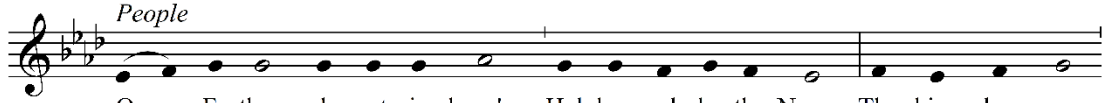
Music by John Merbecke

Celebrant

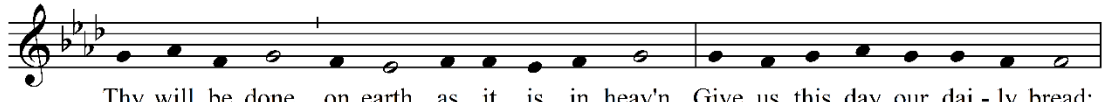


And now, as our Sa-viour Christ hath com-mand-ed and taught us, we are bold to say:

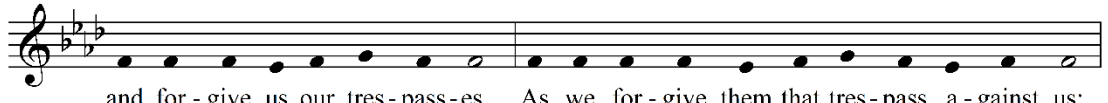
People




Our Fa-ther, who art in heav'n, Hal-low-ed be thy Name, Thy king-dom come,



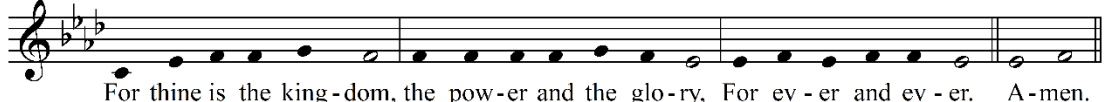
Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our dai-ly bread;



and for-give us our tres-pass-es, As we for-give them that tres-pass a-gainst us;



And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, But de-li-ver us from ev-il.




For thine is the king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry, For ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

FRACTION & PEACE

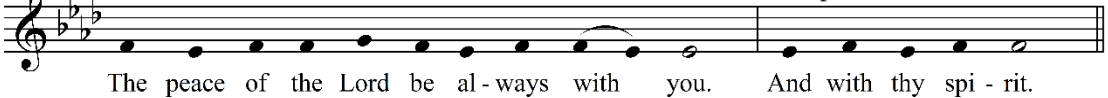
A period of silence is kept. The consecrated Bread is broken.

Celebrant



The peace of the Lord be al-ways with you.

People



And with thy spi-rit.

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 sin
of the world, have mercy upon us.

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin
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.

The Celebrant turns to face the People and says,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sin of the world.

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst 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 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.

The People's hand candles are lit during the Motets.

MOTETS

'O magnum mysterium,' Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum, jacentum in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn
Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

'Hodie Christus Natus Est,' Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Hodie Christus natus est, Hodie Salvator apparuit, Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli. Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

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

The Choir's hand candles are lit. 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.

FOREST GREEN
English Traditional Melody

Bishop Phillips Brooks 1868

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 Campbell 1817-1878 and others

The People kneel in candlelight.

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.

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

When the lights are turned back on, the People extinguish their candles.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 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:
<i>O come, let us adore him.</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>Christ the Lord!</i> | 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
<i>O come, let us adore him.</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>Christ the Lord!</i> |
|--|---|

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 for the Postlude. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence in the church during and after the Postlude.

VOLUNTARY Dieu Parmi Nous (God Among Us), from La Nativité du Seigneur,
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Paroles du communiant, de la Vierge, de l'Église toute entière: Celui qui m'a créé a reposé dans ma tente, le Verbe s'est fait chair et il a habité en moi. Mon âme glorifie le Seigneur, mon esprit a tressailli d'allégresse en Dieu mon Sauveur.

Words of the communicant, of the virgin, and of the whole Church: He that created me has rested in my tabernacle. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my Spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

(Ecclesiasticus 24:12, John 1:14, Luke 1:46-47)

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Day Services are as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong on Christmas Day.

On Sunday, December 31 the Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Procession and High Mass will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 am.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be A Procession with Epiphany Carols during the course of Evensong & Benediction, followed by a small reception.

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