

# Saint Thomas's Church

## Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

High Mass at 11 o'clock



*Madonna of the Pomegranate*, Sandro Botticelli, 1487  
La galleria degli Uffizi, Firenze, Italia

**Saint Thomas's Anglican Church**

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## 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.*

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*The flowers and decorations in the church on Christmas Day  
are the gift of the congregation.*

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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](http://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:** Fr. Humphrey  
**Deacon & Homilist:** Fr. Shire  
**Reader:** Earl Barnsley  
**Interim Director of Music & Organist:** Elizabeth Anderson

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**MUSIC OF THE MASS:** Missa 'Corde natus ex parentis,' *Healey Willan (1888-1968)*

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

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

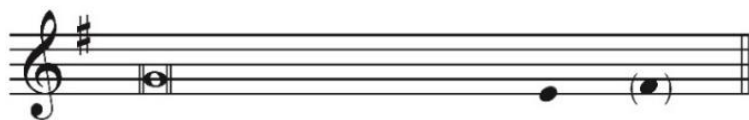
*At the sound of the bell, all stand for the entrance of the Choir and Sacred Ministers.*

**ENTRANCE 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.*

**STATION AT THE CRIB**



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
**And we beheld his glory.**

O God the Son, highest and holiest, who didst humble thyself to share our birth and our death: Bring us with the shepherds and the wise men to kneel before thy lowly cradle, that we may come to sing with thine angels thy glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest God world without end. **Amen.**

- 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*  
Melody probably by J.F. Wade 1711-86

*Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century*  
*Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80, and others*

*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. Kyrie Eleison.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christe Eleison.  
Lord, have mercy upon us. Kyrie Eleison.

*The People stand.*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

*Missa de Angelis*

*Celebrant* *People*

Glo-ry be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will to - wards men. We praise thee,  
we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo-ri - fy thee, we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glo - ry, O Lord God hea - ven - ly King, God the Fath - er Al - migh - ty.  
O Lord, the on - ly - be - got - ten Son, Je - su Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Fath - - - er, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,  
have mer - cy up - on us. Thou that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,  
re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God the Fath - er,  
have mer - cy up - on us. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord;  
thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high  
in the glo - ry of God the Fath - - - er. A men.

*The People remain standing for the Collect.*

## **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 52.7-10**

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

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The People remain seated for the psalm.*

**PSALM 98.1-6**

*Cantate Domino*

I. 2



- Cantor* 1 O SING unto the Lord a **new** song :
- People* for he hath done **mar-vel-löus** things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his ho-ly arm : hath he gotten him-**self** the vic-to-ry.
- Cantor* 3 The Lord hath declar-ed his sal-**va**-tion : his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight **of** the nä-tions.
- People* 4 He hath remember-ed his mercy and his faithfulness toward the house of Is-**ra**-el : and all the ends of the world have seen the salva-**tion** of öur Göd.
- Cantor* 5 Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all **ye** lands : sing, re-**joice**, and give thänks.
- People* 6 Praise the Lord upon **the** harp : sing to the harp with a psalm **of** thanks-giv-ing.

**THE EPISTLE:** Hebrews 1.1-12

The Epistle is written in the first chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews, beginning at the first verse.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

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

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 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.

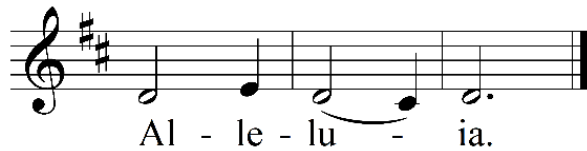
*Upper* 4 She bowed her to the angel's word  
*Voices* Declaring what the Father willed,  
And suddenly the promised Lord  
That pure and hallowed temple filled.

*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.*

## **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

*The People stand to sing the Creed. All who are able to kneel, please do so at "and was incarnate," rising after "and was made man."*

## THE NICENE CREED

*Missa de Angelis*

*Celebrant*                      *People*

I be-lieve in one God the Fath-er Al-migh-ty, Mak-er of hea-ven and earth,  
And of all things vis - - - i - ble and in - vis - - - i - ble:  
And in one Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly - be - got - ten Son of God,  
Be - got - ten of the Fath - - er be - fore all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light;  
Ve - ry God, of Ve - ry God; Be - got - ten not made; Be - ing of one sub - stance  
with the Fath - er; Through whom all things were made: Who for us men  
and for our sal - va - tion came down from hea - ven, And was in - car - nate by  
the Ho - ly Ghost of the Vir - gin Ma - ry, And was made man,



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



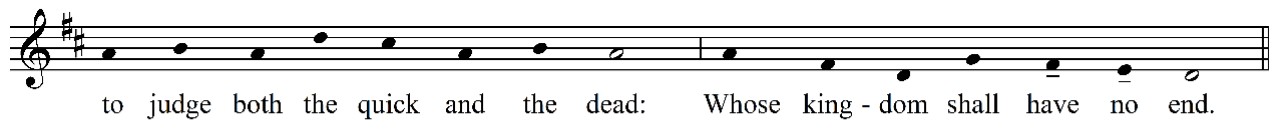
He suf - fer - ed and was bu - - - ri - ed, And the third day he rose a - gain



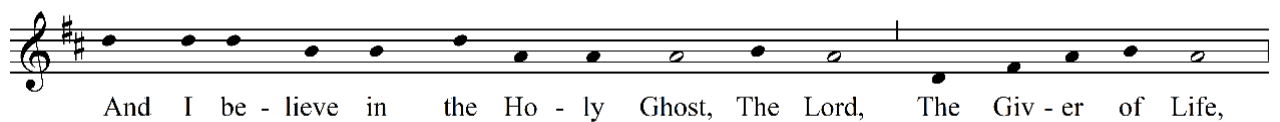
ac - cord - ing to the Scrip - tures, And as - cend - ed in - to hea - - - ven,



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.



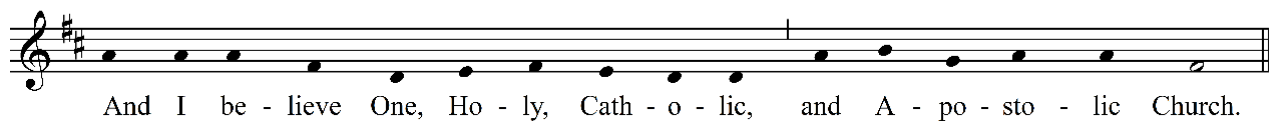
And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost, The Lord, The Giv - er of Life,



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



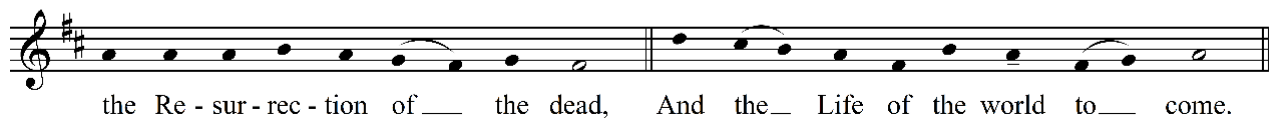
to - geth - er is wor - ship - ped and glo - ri - fi - ed, Who spake by the Pro - - phets.



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 SENTENCE

Brethren, you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.

*The People remain standing for the hymn.*

## OFFERTORY 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.

*The People remain standing as the thurifer approaches for the censuring.*

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

*The People kneel. The Celebrant turns to face the people, and bids the intercessions.*

## **INTERCESSIONS**

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the church universal throughout the world; for Andrew our bishop, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer for \_\_\_\_\_, according to the Diocesan prayer cycle for \_\_\_\_\_, and for all who serve and minister to God's people. *(Silence.)*

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

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the King and for all in civil authority in our country, province, and city. May God guide them in the ways of justice and peace; that all may honour one another and serve the common good. *(Silence.)*

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

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for God's blessings upon all people, giving thanks to God for the people, neighbours, and friends of this parish, and especially for all those present in person or via livestream; for newcomers and visitors this morning, both near and far; and for all other thanksgivings we now name, silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_ [We give thanks especially for\_\_\_\_\_.] May God's abiding presence be with us always, that we may be a blessing to all people. *(Silence.)*

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

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for all those in need, for the sick\_\_\_\_\_, and all those suffering in mind, body, or estate due to the ongoing pandemic; for victims of warfare and violence; for elders, for prisoners, for refugees and migrants, for the oppressed, for those who mourn, and for all others for whom our prayers are asked\_\_\_\_\_. May God grant that they will be comforted by the ever-present love of our Lord. (*Silence.*)

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

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the souls of the departed, especially\_\_\_\_\_ who have died in recent days, and those whose year's mind is at this time \_\_\_\_\_, that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in God's eternal kingdom. May God grant that their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, may rest in peace and rise in glory. (*Silence.*)

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

*Celebrant:* Grant O God that, through our prayers, our lives may radiate the presence of Christ to all who dwell on earth. For he is our Lord and God, evermore and evermore.  
**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

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 left part is for the Celebrant and the right part is for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you; And with thy spirit." The second staff also has two parts: Celebrant and People. The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts; We lift them up unto the Lord." The third staff has 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,

*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

*The consecrated Bread is broken.*

*Celebrant* *People*

The peace of the Lord be al - ways with you. 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 sins of the world, have mercy upon us.	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.	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 sins 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 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.

**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 (1830-94)

*The People may sit or kneel for the hymn.*

**COMMUNION HYMN 81 - Angels, from the realms of glory**

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*
- 2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen his natal star:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

5 Though an infant now we view him,  
He shall fill his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*REGENT SQUARE  
Henry Smart, 1867*

*James Montgomery 1771-1854*

*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.**

## CONCLUDING 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 1707-88 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)