

Saint Thomas's Church

(Congregation Established 1874)

Joyous Christmas : Joyeux Noël

**SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS
ON CHRISTMAS EVE
AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK PM**



Christ is born: glorify him.

*Christ comes from heaven:
go out to meet him.*

*Christ descends to earth: let us be raised on high. Let
all the world sing to the Lord; let the heavens rejoice
and let the earth be glad, for his sake who was first
in heaven and then on earth.*

*Christ is here in the flesh: Let us exult with fear and
joy — with fear, because of our sins; with joy,
because of the hope that he brings us.*

S: Gregory of Nazianzus

*Nativity scene from the book of hours
of Louis XII, 1499*

SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS

Welcome to Saint Thomas's.

Please turn off all electronic devices. If you would like to have Holy Communion brought to you in your pew, please let a Sideperson know and show them where you are seated.

Most of the music for this service is printed on a separate music sheet, including the Music of the Mass, Hymns, Carols, Motets, and organ pieces.

Please stand for the Entrance Hymn (see music sheet)

Please kneel or be seated after the hymn concludes

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.*

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*R / Lord, have mercy upon us,
and write both these thy laws in ours hearts, we beseech thee.*

The choir sings

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

Please stand

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.*

V / The Lord be with you.

R / *And with thy spirit.*

Please remain standing

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.*

Please be seated

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

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.

V / The word of the Lord

R / *Thanks be to God*

PSALM 96.1-3, 11-13 - Cantate Domino; Tone VIII,2

Please remain seated



- 1 O SING unto the LORD a new **song** :
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.
- 3 Declare his honour among the **na**-tions :
and his wonders a-**mong** all peo-ples.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be **glad** :
let the sea make a noise, and all **that** is there-in.
- 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;
- 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

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

V / The word of the Lord

R / *Thanks be to God*

Please stand

SEQUENCE HYMN—From east to west, from shore to shore

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 FROM east to west, from shore to shore, Let ev'ry heart awake and sing The Holy Child whom Mary bore, The CHRIST, the everlasting King. | 4 She bowed her to the angel's word Declaring what the FATHER willed, And suddenly the promised LORD That pure and hallowed temple filled. |
| 2 Behold! the world's Creator wears The form and fashion of a slave; Our very flesh our Maker shares, His fallen creature, man, to save. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

7 All glory for that blessed morn
To GOD the FATHER ever be,
All praise to thee, O Virgin-born,
And praise, blest SPIRIT, unto thee. Alleluia.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius 1571-1621

Latin, Caelius Sedulius c 450
Tr John Ellerton 1826-93

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1.1-14—Year One

R / Glory be to thee, O Lord

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. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

V / The Gospel of Christ
R / *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2,1-14, (15-20)—Year Two

R / Glory be to thee, O Lord

Now it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar 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 Judæa, 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, who 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.

V / The Gospel of Christ

R / *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

NICENE CREED - *Missa de Angelis*

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

HOMILY

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Beloved, 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.

2 Corinthians 8. 9

OFFERTORY HYMN

Please refer to the music leaflet for the Offertory Hymn.

The gifts of the people are collected and brought to the High Altar. Please give generously, as God enables you: the Church and its mission depends on the gifts of people like you.

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*

INTERCESSIONS

Please kneel or sit.

Cantor : Lord in thy mercy
R / *We beseech thee, hear our prayer.*

INVITATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Please kneel or be seated

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.*

SURSUM CORDA

V / THE LORD be with you;
R / *And with thy spirit.*
V / Lift up your hearts;
R / *We lift them up unto the Lord.*
V / Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
R / *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:

Please kneel as the choir 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.*

*Blessèd is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.*

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Merbecke

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

The Consecrated Bread is broken.

V / The peace of the Lord be always with you.

R / *And with thy spirit.*

HOLY COMMUNION

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 sings

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.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Some may wish to come forward for a blessing - please cross your arms over your chest.

For courtesy, please remain in place at the rail until the person beside you has received his or her Communion.

During the administration of Holy Communion hymns, carols and perhaps a motet will be sung. Please see the music insert.

Please kneel or be seated

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, whose blessed Son didst humble himself to share our birth and our death, and who ever permittest us in these holy mysteries 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 is alive, and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Saviour's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favour. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

PROCESSION TO THE CRIB

Adeste, Fideles

During this hymn, the Celebrant takes up the image 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!

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!

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

- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 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,
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

Please see the music insert for the postlude