

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Eve ~ The Vigil of the Nativity

A.D. 2025



Grace Episcopal Church

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We are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

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Email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate*

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden*

Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*

Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*

Adriianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa,

Sheryl Rifkin, Sr. Gregory Simmons

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**W**ELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate **CHRISTMAS EVE ~ THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY**. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.

# MUSICAL PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS EVE MASS, A. D. 2025 ~ 8:00 P.M.

Hymn 92 (*sung by all*)

“On this day earth shall ring”

*Personent Hodie*

*Introduction*

1 On this day earth shall ring  
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth;  
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head,  
 4 On this day an - gels sing;

with the song when he came Wise Men three with their song

chil - dren sing down to earth to him led; earth shall ring,

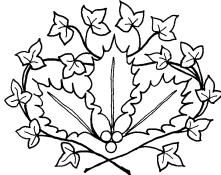
to the Lord, Beth - le - hem kneel they low prais - ing Christ,

Christ our King, saw his birth; by his bed, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*

Id - e - o - o, Id - e - o - o,  
 Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Carol (*choir*)

“Jesus Christ the apple tree”

Elizabeth Poston (d. 1987)

THE TREE OF LIFE my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

New England traditional, collected by Joshua Smith, 1784



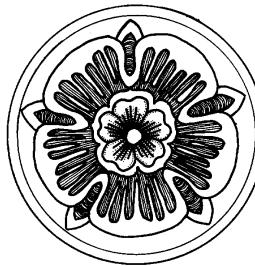
Hymn 101 (*sung by all*)

“Away in a Manger”

*Cradle Song*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 \*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.



Organ: *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*

Carol (*choir*)

Johannes Brahms (d. 1897)

14th c. German melody, harm. Michael Praetorius (d. 1621)

**L** O, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Vv. I & 2, German, 15th c.; tr. T Baker (d. 1934);  
 v. 3, F. Layritz (d. 1859); tr. H. R. K. Spaeth (d. 1925)

Two Motets

Carol

Motet

"Puer natus in Bethlehem / Ein Kind geborn zu Bethlehem"

M. Praetorius

"There is no Rose of swych vertu"

anonymous, 15th century

"The Word was made flesh" for two voices,

Sean R. Glenn (2023)

*Sr. Gregory Simmons & Mr. Sean Glenn, vocalists, Haven Religious*

Hymn 105 (*sung by all*)

"God rest you merry"

*God Rest You Merry*



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas Day,  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and  
joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!



*The Mass will follow immediately.*

# SOLEMN HIGH MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve, A.D. 2025, 8:30 P.M.

Mass Setting: *Mass in C major, B.Anh.I*

Baldassare Galuppi (d.1785)

*This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass will be sung by the choir.*



## THE PROCESSION

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in peace.

*People:* In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 83 vv. 1-3 (*sung by all*)

"O come, all ye faithful"

*Adeste fidelis*

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

1 come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
2 lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

1 come, and behold him, born the King of angels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Father;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the highest;

*Refrain*

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

*The figure of the Christ Child is placed in the manger:*

*V:* The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

*R:* And we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.

*V:* The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

*R:* And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

*V:* The Lord be with you.

*R:* And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, who hast poured upon us the new Light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same Light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn 83 vv. 4-6 (*sung by all*)

"O come, all ye faithful"

*Adeste fidelis*

4 See how the shep-herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —  
6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this ha - py mor - ning; —

4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with and awe;  
6 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
6 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear ing;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

## THE WORD OF GOD

Introit (*choir*)

Mode II

[*Antiphon*] DOMINUS DIXIT ad me: Fílius meus es tu, ego hódie génui te. [*Psalm*] Quare fremuérunt gentes: et pópuli meditáte sunt inánia? Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. [*Repeat antiphon.*]

[The Lord hath said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Why do the heathen so furiously rage together? and why do the people imagine a vain thing? Glory be. ...]

Opening Acclamation (*All remain standing*)

*Celebrant:* ♫ BLESSED BE GOD: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are 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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

**T**HOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison (*choir*)

B. Galuppi

**K**YRIE eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

**K**[Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.]

Gloria in excelsis (*choir*)

B. Galuppi

**G**LORIA 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.

[Glory be to God on high, and on 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, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. That takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins 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.]

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**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.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

THE PEOPLE who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

*Congregation's Response:* Thanks be to God.



The Gradual: Psalm 96

*Cantate Domino*

Tone VIII.I

*(Congregation repeats the antiphon after the cantor and sings the italicized verses.)*

*Antiphon:*

Un- to us a Child is born;  
unto us a Son is gi- ven.

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 unto the | heathen,

\* and his wonders un- | to all peoples.

4 For the LORD is great and cannot worthily be / praised;

\* he is more to be fear- / ed than all gods.

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be | glad;

\* let the sea make a noise and | all that therein ^ is.

12 Let the field be joyful and all that is / in it;

\* then shall all the trees of the wood re- / joice before the ^ LORD.

*[All repeat antiphon.]*

The Epistle: Titus 2: 11-14 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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 Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

*Congregation's Response:* Thanks be to God.



The Alleluia (*people's part in italics*) *Dominus dixit*

Tone VI

*Cantor:* Al- le- lu- ia.

*People:* Al- le- lu- ia.

*Choir:* DOMINUS DIXIT ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.  
[The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.]

*People:* Al- le- lu- ia.



Sequence Hymn 82 (*sung by all*)

## "Of the Father's love begotten"

*Divinum mysterium*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min-ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_



The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 2: 1-20 *[RSV]*

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People:* ♫ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**I**N those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among men with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People's response:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.



The Nicene Creed from *Missa de Angelis* (*sung by all*)  
*Cantor*

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326  
*All*



Cre - do in u - num De - - um. Pa - trem o - mni - po - ten - tem,  
*I believe in one God,* *the-Father almighty,*



fa-cto-rem coe-li et ter-rae, vi-si-bi-li-um o - - mni-um, et in-vi-si-bi - - li-um.  
*maker of-heaven and of-earth, visible* *of-all-things and invisible.*



Et in u-num Do-mi-num Je-sum Chri-stum, Fi - li-um De - i u - ni - ge - ni - tum,  
*And in one Lord,* *Jesus Christ,* *the-Son of God only-begotten,*



et ex Pa - tre na - - tum an - te o - mni - a sae - - cu - la.  
*and from the-Father born* *before all* *worlds.*



De-um de De - o, lu - men de lu - mi - ne, De-um ve - rum de De - o ve - ro.  
*God of God,* *light of light,* *God true of God true.*



Ge-ni-tum, non fa - - ctum, con-sub-stan-ti - a-lem Pa-tri: per quem o-mni-a fa-cta sunt.  
*Begotten, not made,* *of-one-substance with-the-Father: by whom all-things made were.*



Qui pro - pter nos ho - mi - nes, et pro - pter no - stram sa - lu - tem de - scen - dit de coe - lis.  
*Who for us humans,* *and for our salvation descended from heaven,*  
*(Here genuflect)*



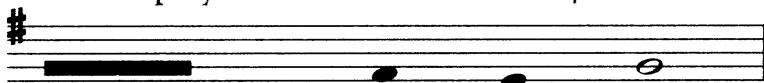
Et in-car-na-tus est de Spi-ri-tu San - cto ex Ma-ri-a Vir-gi-ne: et ho-mo fa-ctus est.  
*And incarnate was by the-Spirit Holy of Mary the-Virgin: and human made was.*



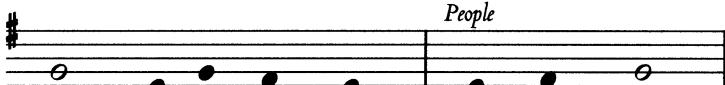
Cru-ci - fi - - xus e - ti - am pro no - bis sub Pon - ti - o Pi - la - to pas - sus et se - pul - - tus est.  
*Crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and buried was.*



*Leader:* Let us pray for the Church and | for the world.



Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (*Silence*)



Lord, in thy mer - cy      *hear our prayer.* (*Sung after every intercession*)

*Leader:* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (*Silence*)  
Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Leader:* Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (*Silence*)  
Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Leader:* Watch over thy children *Kenneth & Nadia*, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days / of their lives. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Leader:* We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)  
Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Leader:* We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [*especially N.*]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

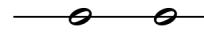
*Leader:* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Leader:* We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (*pause*); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

*Celebrant:* Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People*



*A - men.*

## Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Deacon:* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*People:* Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, 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 honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who 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.*

## Comfortable Words

*Celebrant:* Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

COME UNTO ME, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*  
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* THE PEACE of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

## Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50: 14*

## Offertory (*choir*)

#### Mode IV

**T**ÆTENTUR CÆLI, et exsultet terra ante faciem Domini quoniam venit.

**L**[Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the face of the Lord, for he is come.]

## Motet (*choir*)

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

**H**ODIE, Christus natus est: *hodie, Salvator apparuit: *hodie, in terra canunt Angeli: H*laetantur Archangeli: *hodie, exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.**

[Today, Christ is born: today, the Saviour hath appeared: today, on earth the choirs of Angels sing: Archangels together rejoice: today, the righteous exult, declaring: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.]



Hymn 78 (*sung by all*)

## "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

## Forest Green

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Presentation of the alms and oblations

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord,*People:* And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

*Celebrant:* Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

*People:* May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

Hymnal S 112

*Celebrant:* The LORD be with you.

*People:* And with thy spi - rit.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up un - to the LORD.

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

*People:* It is meet and right so to do.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,*

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.

**B**ECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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



Sanctus and Benedictus (*choir*)

B. Galuppi

**S**ANCTUS, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. ♫ Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

[Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. ♫ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.]

## The Canon of the Mass

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ 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 memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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 Testament, 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 Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly 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 here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, \* be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People

— o o +  
A- men.



The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

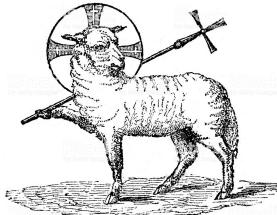
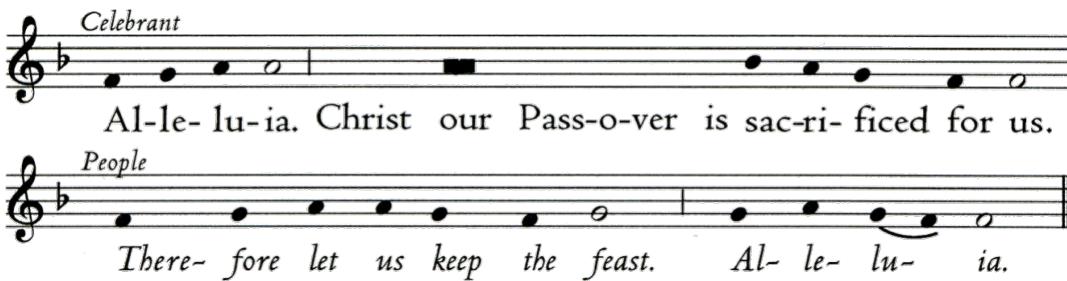
*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*All*



The Fraction

*Celebrant*



Agnus Dei (*choir*)

B. Galuppi

**A**GNUS DEI, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

[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.]

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**W**E 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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*People:* Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

**I**N SPLENDORIBUS SANCTORUM, ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

[In the beauty of holiness, from the womb before the Day-Star, have I begotten thee.]

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

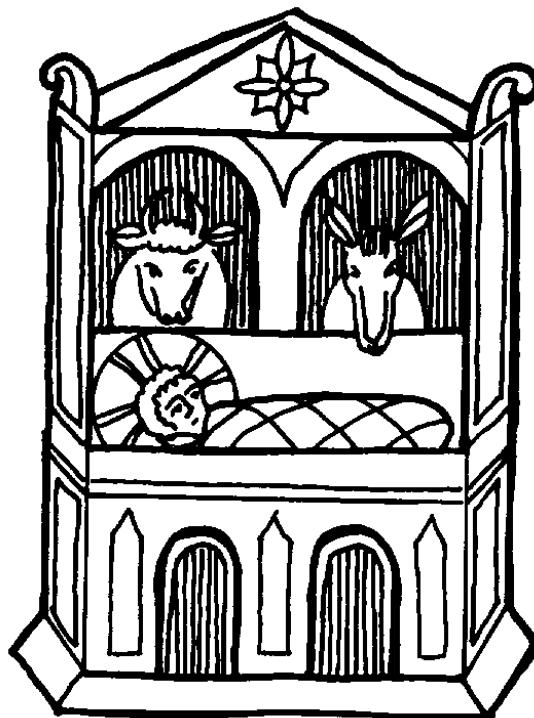
*IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.*

Motet (*choir*)

Tomás Luis de Victoria (d. 1611)

**O** MAGNUM MYSTERIUM et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in præsepio. O beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.

[O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, That animals might see the birth of the Lord As he lay in the manger. O, Blessed Virgin, Whose womb wast worthy of bearing our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.]



The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*People:* Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.



Hymn III (*sung by all*)

"Silent night"

*Stille Nacht*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## The Christmas 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 Savior'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 favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## The Dismissal (*all stand*)

Hymnal S 174

*Deacon:* Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*The People respond:* Thanks be to God.

## The Last Gospel

St. John I: I-14

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* ✠ The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

*People:* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

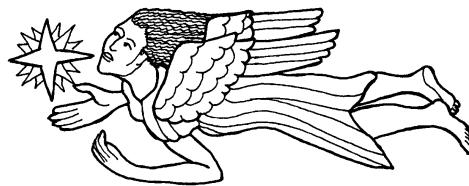
IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the 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.



(*Here genuflect*) And the Word was made flesh, (*Here rise*) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

*People:* Thanks be to God.



Hymn 87 (*sung by all*)

“Hark! the herald angels sing”

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!



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# Grace at Christmas



 CHRISTMAS DAY 

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**10:00 A.M. LOW MASS WITH HYMNS**

**Also streamed on YouTube:**

**[www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford](https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford)**

