

Saint Thomas's Church

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



L'Adorazione dei pastori, Matthias Stomer, 1632
Palazzo Madama e Casaforte degli Acaja, Turin, Italia

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church

383 Huron Street,

Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5

416-979-2323

www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

Welcome!

On behalf of everyone who claims St. Thomas's as their spiritual home, we are happy you are with us, whether in person or via our livestream. If you are a visitor or newcomer, or even a longtime parishioner, but find it awkward or difficult to stand or kneel at the places indicated, remaining seated is perfectly acceptable. Please assume the posture most conducive to prayer throughout this service, or simply observe.

St. Thomas's has many peculiar ways that we cherish and are happy to share. If there seems to be no rhyme or reason for something, there might not be! But feel free to ask anyone after the service; it usually makes for entertaining conversation.

You are not obliged to engage any of us in conversation, though you should know that pretty much everyone here is happy to do so when we gather. You can always slip away without any judgement. We seem to have a lot of introverts here, so we understand the energy it takes to put yourself out there. Even if you're a raging extrovert, the experience of church can be disorienting. Relax and be yourself. Believe it or not, whether from near or far, God has led you here today. We want to honour what God is up to in your life, and we are here for you as you (re-) discover the joy and the challenge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nathan Humphrey, Rector

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion, indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit qrco.de/smokytoms. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. Nathan Humphrey
Readers: Michael Rowland & John Stuart
Intercessor: Evelyn Chau
Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson
Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

MUSIC OF THE MASS

Community Mass, Richard Proulx (b. 1963)

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

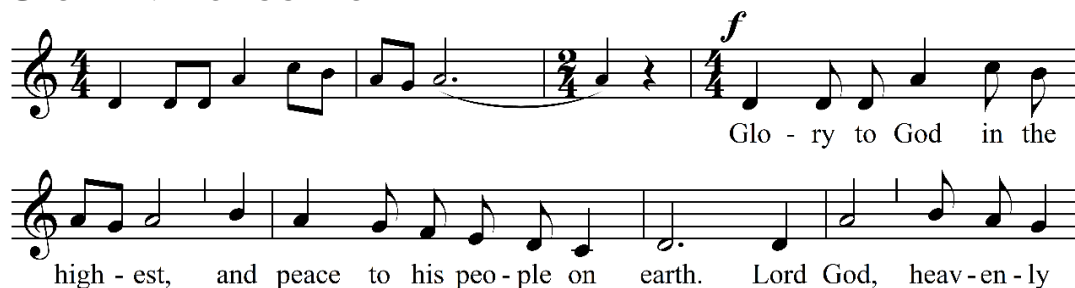
And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The People and Choir sing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO



Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly



king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



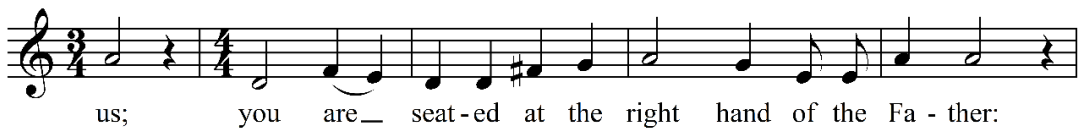
give you thanks, we praise you for_ your glo - ry.



p
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are_ seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:



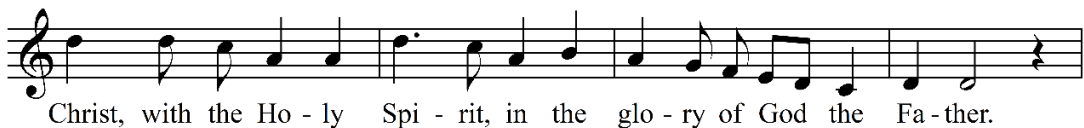
re - ceive our pray'r, re - ceive, re - ceive our pray'r.



f
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - - - men. A - - - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 98.1-6

The Choir sings the Refrain, which is repeated by the People. The Choir then sings the verses, and all repeat the Refrain where indicated.



All the ends of the earth have seen the sal - va - tion of our God.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. *Refrain.*

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. *Refrain.*

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. *Refrain.*

A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Cantor sings the Alleluias, which are repeated by the People. The Cantor then sings the verse, and all repeat the Alleluias.



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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The People sit.

SERMON

After the Sermon, the People remain seated for a period of silent reflection, standing when the Celebrant stands.

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: *(Bow.)* by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. *(Rise.)*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The People remain standing.

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: Let us build this sacred time and place remembering the people and places of our own joys and griefs as we do those of creation.

Intercessor: God, Creator, at this holy time your Son was born in human form: renew your church, particularly _____, as his Body, expanding his light and love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: In this holy time Christians all round the world celebrate that birth: open our hearts in Thanksgiving for, _____ and all who bear his light today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: In this holy time there was no room in a house for your Son: guard with your love all those who are homeless, have no safe refuge, and all who live in poverty.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: In this holy time Mary with the pain of labour birthed your Son: hold in your hand, _____ and all who live with sickness and distress today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy time your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness: bring comfort to _____, and all who suffer the sadness and stress of our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: In this holy time angels sang 'Peace to God's people on Earth': strengthen all those who work for peace and justice in all creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: In this holy time heaven has come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven: keep in your lovingkindness _____, and all those who have gone through death in faith they approach heaven.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, in this holy time angels and shepherds worshipped at that manger: receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Blessed Mary and all your saints as you accept these prayers for his sake, your Son, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The People bow or kneel. Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The People remain standing for the hymn during the Offertory.

OFFERTORY 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 field 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.*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*



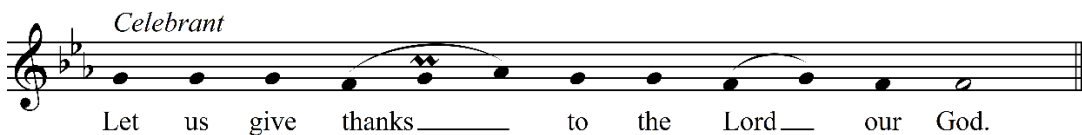
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Celebrant *People*



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People



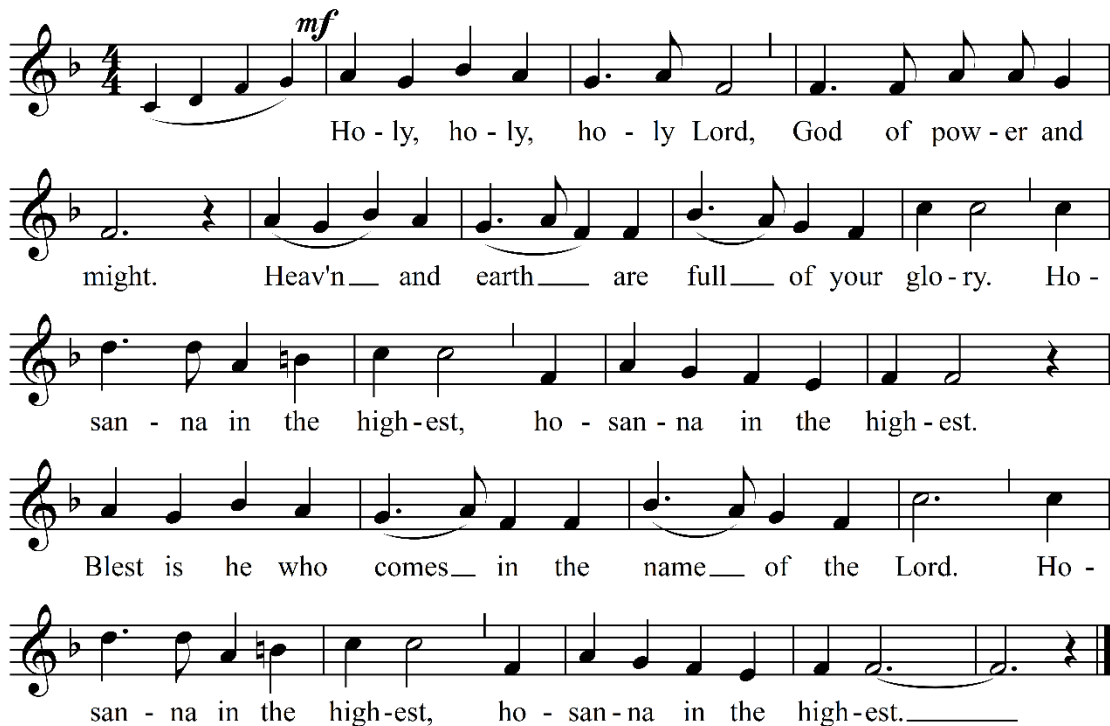
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

The People and Choir sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



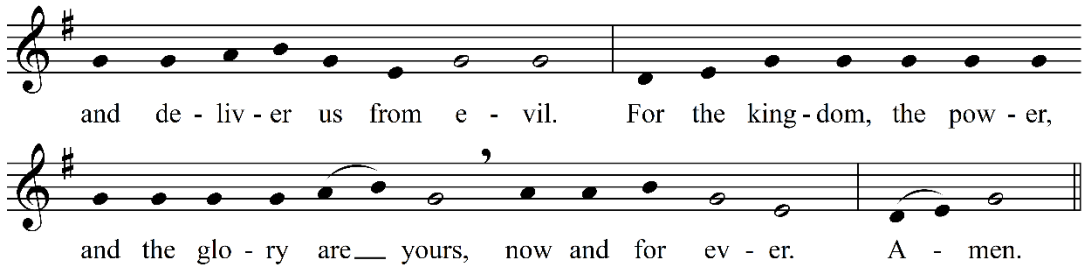
mf

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People remain standing.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are__ yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

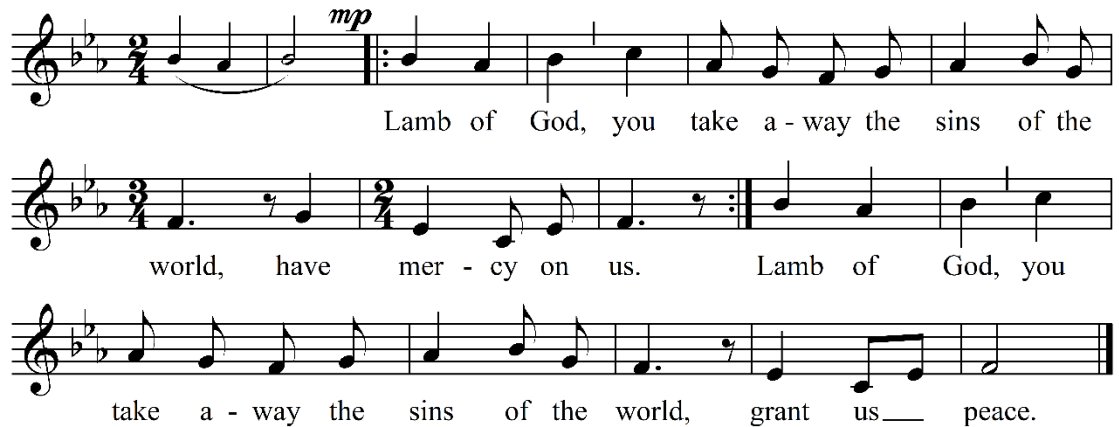
We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The People and Choir sing:

AGNUS DEI



mp
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world, grant us__ peace.

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!

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)

COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

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

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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 1809-47*

Charles Wesley 1707-88 and others

VOLUNTARY

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

The People may be seated for the Postlude. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence in the church during and after the Postlude.

Please note there will be no Evensong today.

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

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

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

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