

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 12, 2021 AT 11AM | ADVENT 3

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | 60 EAST AVENUE | NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Lo how a rose e'er blooming", Mark D. Himmelman

*During the Prelude the Choir processes down the west aisle, while the Congregation remains seated.
Please stand as the bell sounds.*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Our God, Emmanuel, now draws near;

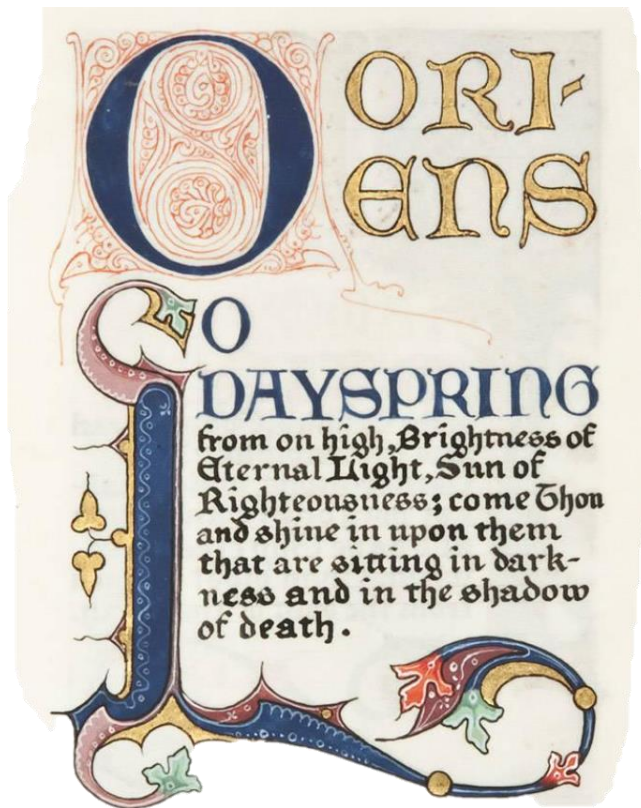
The People respond



THE INTROIT

sung by the Choir

O Antiphons



Introit translation - Illumination by Edith Ibbs

HYMN IN PROCESSION



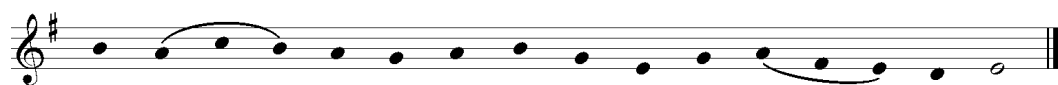
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. | Re-joyce! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890)

THE OPENING COLLECT

Come, O come Emmanuel; you are the way, the truth, and the life;
you are the true vine and the bread of life.
Come, living Savior, come to your world which waits for you.
Praise to you, the one, holy, and living God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968) © 1928 Oxford University Press OneLicense.net License #A-709109

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Throughout this service, the People's responses are marked in bold.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son into a world where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff and evil clings even to what is good. Let the fire of your Spirit purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified, we may find our peace in you and you may delight in us. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON *seated*

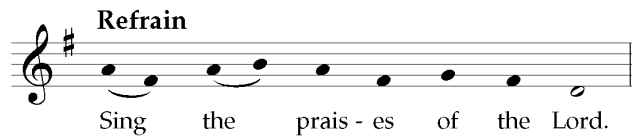
Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

(The Cantor will sing the refrain once; the Congregation repeats it)



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Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted. **REFRAIN**
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **REFRAIN**

Title: The Song of Zechariah Benedictus Dominus Deus
Music: Plainsong, Tone 1; License: OneLicense.net License #A-709109

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.
Thanks be to God.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

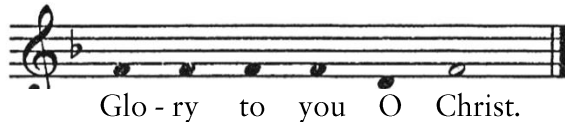
1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
 Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand-Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.
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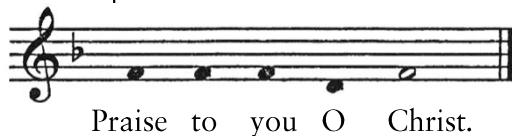
The Deacon or Priest intones:

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



John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. "So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

seated

Katie Kirk, Seminarian

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” —John 1:20

It is not true that we are victims of evil that seeks to rule the world—

This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, on whom authority will rest; who shall be called the Prince of Peace.” —Isaiah 9:6

It is not true that we must wait for prophets to speak before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young ones shall see visions, and your elders shall have dreams. —Joel 2:28

It is not true that our hopes for liberating justice, human dignity, and peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: “The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.” —John 4:23

Merciful God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, and from hate to love. Lead us to your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A credal statement from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship of the Church of South Africa

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We respond now in prayer to God – God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

Blessed are You, who joins all things together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a people of new birth, manifesting your divine love in our common life of praise and service.

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world.

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

O Dayspring from on high, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

For whom and for what else shall we pray?

The People offer particular thanksgivings and intercessions aloud or in silence.

O come, Emmanuel:

Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

The Celebrant concludes

O God who has come among us; God who dwells within us; God who fulfills what is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the healing presence, the gift of wonder, the birth of possibility. Let every heart prepare You room. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who comes among us now. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please share the Peace with a distanced gesture to those nearby.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends. You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 203-889-9983. For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your support!



ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *seated; sung by the Choir*

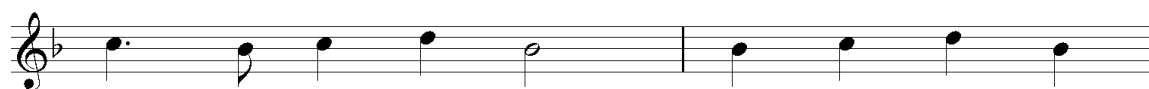
Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love my Heart: such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

Ralph Vaughn Williams

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing; the gifts of bread, wine, and the offering are brought forward*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al-so 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 God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, fire, and water, and every living thing. You made us creators in your image and taught us to walk in your love. But we rebelled against you and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in your light and the fullness of your love. So this day we join with Saints and Angels in a chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

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The Celebrant continues

All glory be to you, holy and living God. You looked with favor on Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God. Living among us Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world into the heart of God, but we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

When the time came to complete the offering of his life, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take and eat; this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Now gathered at your table, remembering that we are one with you and all creation, we offer to you from your own hand these gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your children from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise, forever and ever.



Setting: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015) © 1982 Church Publishing, Inc. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,

now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian Chant, adapt. Mason Martens © 1985 Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying

God comes to meet us here and now;
Come Emmanuel, and find us ready to receive you.

THE COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives. All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.

Organ

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

Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968). Music © 1928 Oxford University Press. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

God is coming among us: in our past forgiving us, in our present loving us, and in our future, meeting us with everlasting grace. The blessing of God – Source of hope, Word of life, and ever-present Spirit of truth, be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)
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THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ to love and to serve.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C Major
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Priest in Charge*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*