

HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday after Christmas

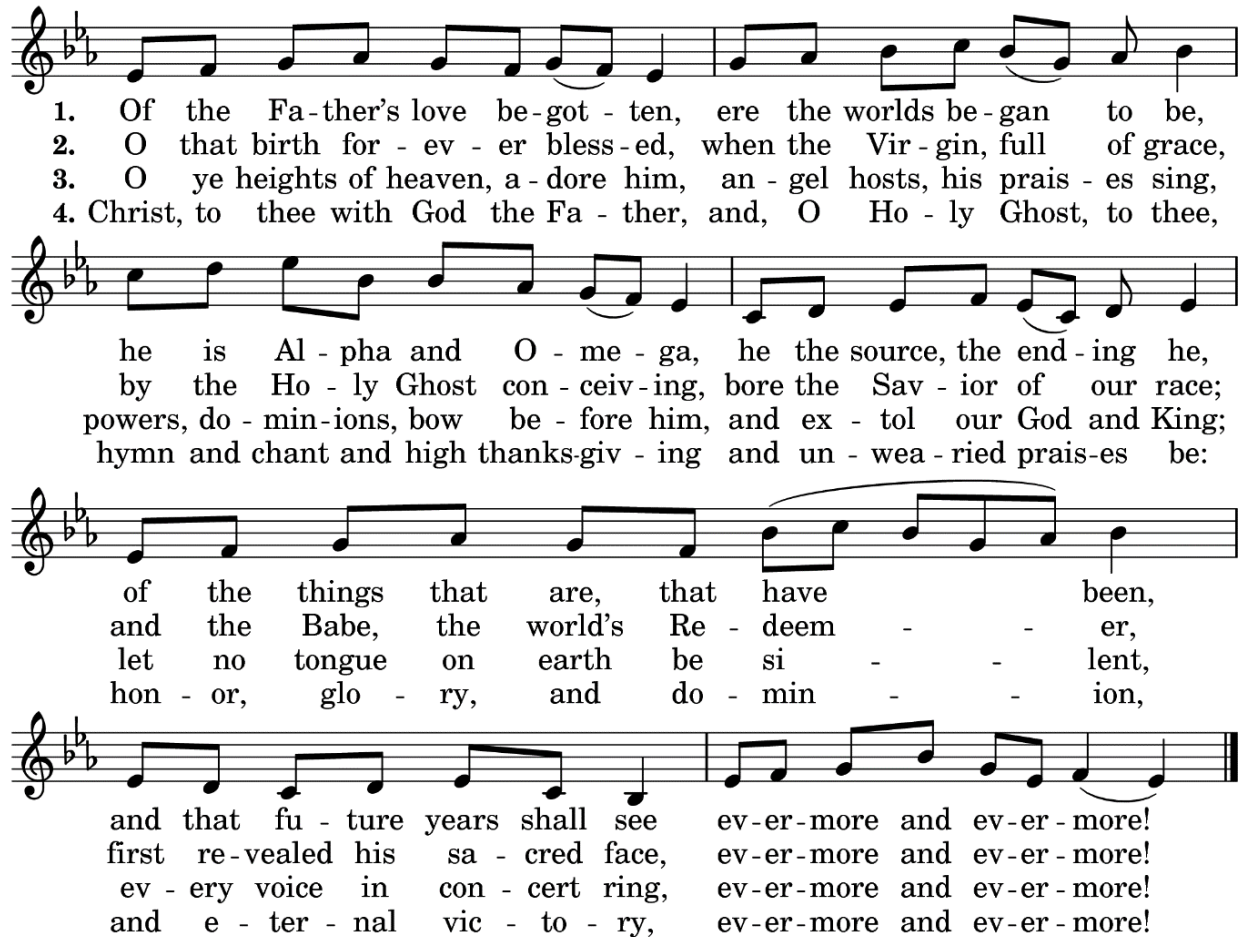
ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 9:00 & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Echo Noël - Louis-Claude d'Aquin Arr. Virgil Fox

Please stand as the bell sounds.

HYMN IN PROCESSION



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

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais-es be:

of the things that are, that have been,
and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

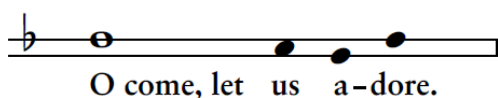
and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - ery voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.
Music: Divinum Mysterium, Plainsong, c. 13th C.; arr. based on C. Winfred

OPENING ACCLAMATION

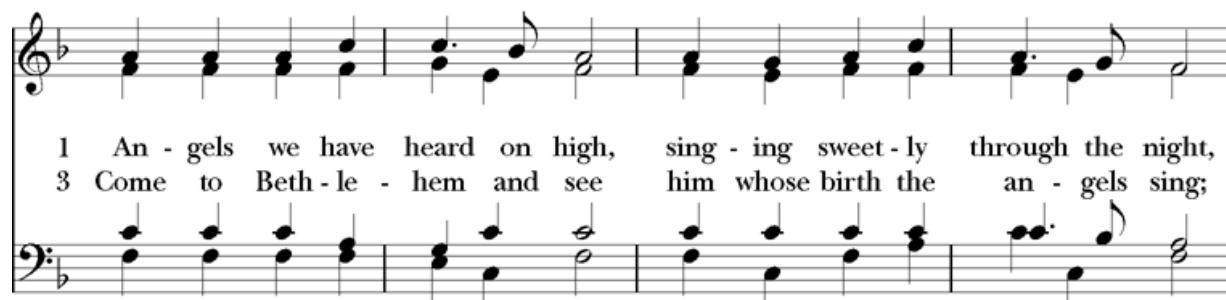
The Celebrant intones

Now is born the Salvation of the world.



O come, let us a-dore.

SONG OF PRAISE



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LESSON *seated*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *sung by the Cantor*

Psalms 147:13-21

Worship God, O Jerusalem; *

praise your Sovereign, O Zion;

For the Holy One has strengthened the bars of your gates *

and has blessed your children within you.

Peace has been established on your borders; *

you are satisfied with the finest wheat.

You send out your command to the earth, *

and your word runs very swiftly.

You give snow like wool *

and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.

You scatter your hail like bread crumbs; *

who can stand against your cold?

You send forth your word and melt them; *

you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

You declare your word to Jacob, *

your statutes and your judgments to Israel.

You have not done so to any other nation; *

to them you have not revealed your judgments. Alleluia!

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN *The People stand and turn toward the Deacon or Priest
as the Gospel comes among the People.*

Unison or harmony

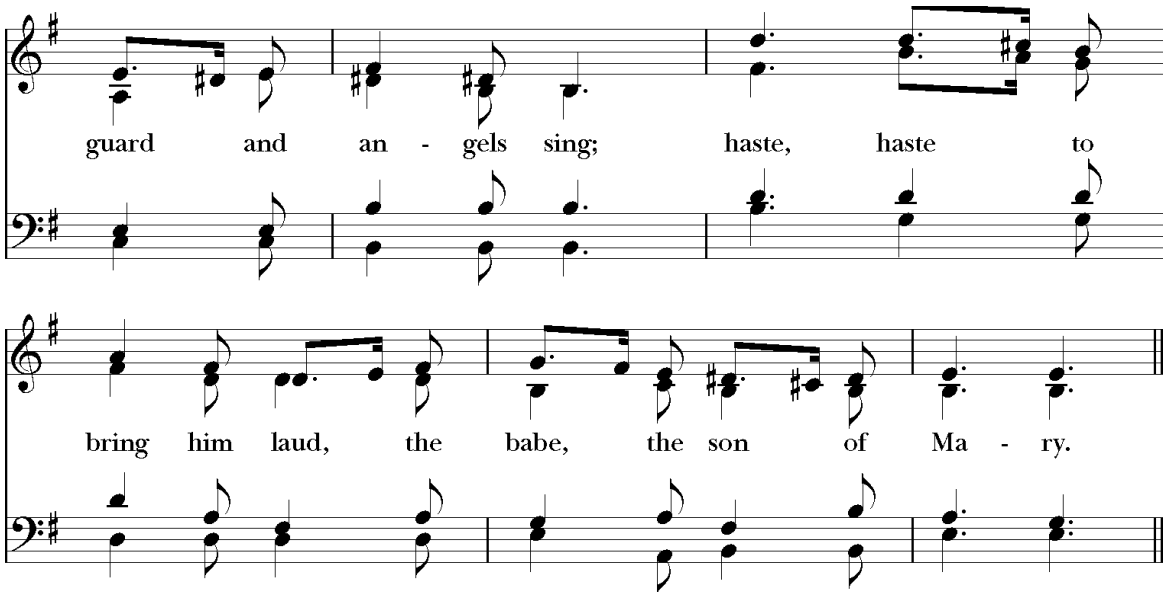
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

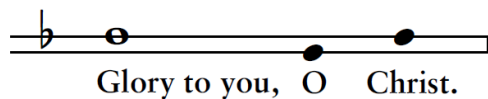


Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)
 Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

THE GOSPEL *The Deacon or Priest intones*

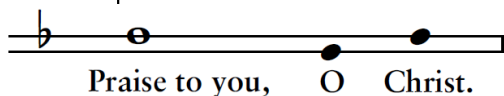
John 1:1-18

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



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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son, She* is worshipped and glorified. She 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.

**Holy Spirit in biblical languages is a feminine-gendered word,
and we use the feminine pronoun here to highlight that aspect of God's fullness.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear People of God, in this season of celebration of Christ made incarnate among us, let us now pray for the needs of the world.

Almighty God, who by the glorious birth of your Son enlightened the darkness of the world: Grant us such love and wonder that we may come and adore the holy Child, who joins earth to heaven, and with our gifts worship and serve him.

Holy God, **Hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen us in this time of conflict, uncertainty, and fear to be people of peace. Grant relief and protection to all who suffer persecution and fear of terror, and give us your grace that we, by acts of kindness and courage may spread the spirit of Christ our Savior.

Holy God, **Hear our prayer.**

God of healing, give your grace to those who are sick, unemployed or in any special need, and give us strength to come to their aid and comfort.

(Please name those for whom you are praying, aloud or in silence.)

Holy God, **Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, we remember those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light. Comfort those who mourn and send your peace to their souls.

(Please name those who have died, aloud or in silence.)

Holy God, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Love, bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve you in them, and love one another as you love us.

(Please offer your own thanksgivings at this time, aloud or in silence.)

Holy God, Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant prays

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

Supporting the Work of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is fully supported by the contributions of its members and friends. Visit the address below or click on the QR code to learn more about the opportunities to give and to make a one-time or sustaining gift to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place:

stpaulsnorwalk.org/support

Thank You!



MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Cantor at 11am*

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Here we bring new water from the well so clear
For to worship God with, this happy New Year

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, etc.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, etc.

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 4 right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank-in-cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is-ra-el.

Words: English Carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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.

O Eternal Wisdom, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for in the fullness of time you were delivered as one of us, a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to let the imprisoned go free. Therefore, we sing with the hosts of heaven, with the angels, and with all those who have loved you throughout the ages, and we praise your name, evermore singing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; who, on the night when he was delivered over to death, gathered his friends, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, given for you." In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, for the remembrance of me."

Be among us now as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)

Come now, Holy Spirit, embrace us with your comforting power. Bless these gifts, and make us one body in Christ. As the Word was made flesh in your Son, may Christ be ever born in us for the life of the world. All this we pray in the risen life of the one who unites heaven and earth, your son, Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all power and glory are yours, now and for ever,



Music: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,

The first system of musical notation for 'The Lord's Prayer'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,'.

2
your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are: 'your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.'.

3
And for-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'And for-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.'.

4
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.'.

5
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The fifth system of musical notation. It concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.'.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

THE COMMUNION

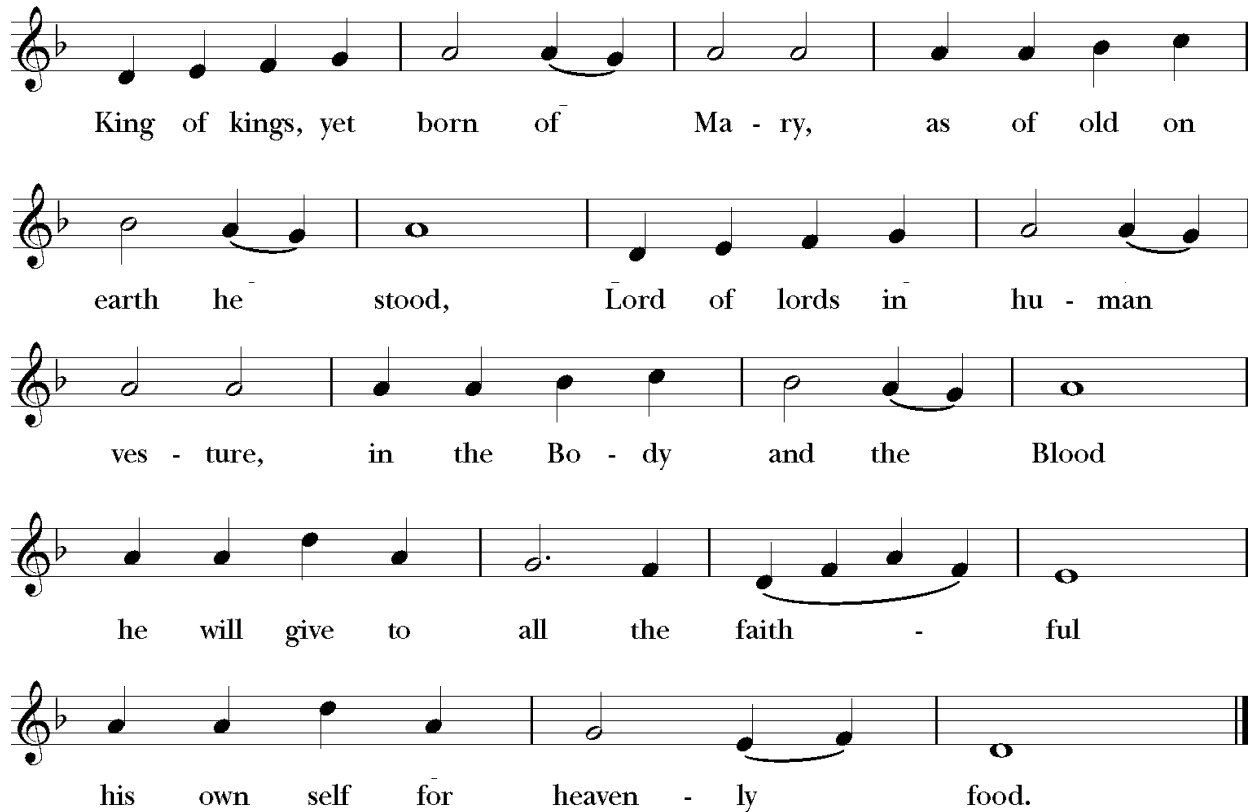
The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request, grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups.

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.



King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
he will give to all the faith - ful
his own self for heaven - ly food.

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

Music: Picardy, French Carol (17th cent.)

MUSIC AT COMMUNION *sung by the Cantor*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Presence, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

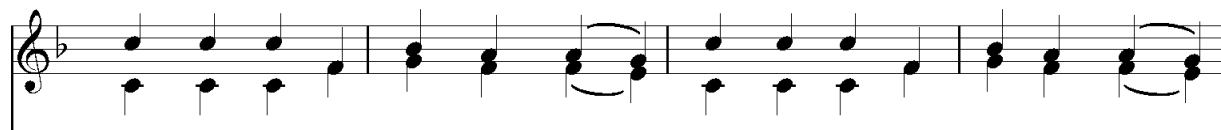
HYMN IN PROCESSION



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!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915)

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go and tell the world that we have seen the glory of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on 'In dulci jubilo' - Mark D. Himmelman

Coming up at St. Paul's
TONIGHT:
Burning Bowl – a year-end ritual
December 31, 6:00pm

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

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

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Molly Cooke *Seminarian*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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