

# CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 25, 2023 - 11:00AM

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## PRELUDE

*Variationen über 'Nun Lob mein Seel den Herrn' - Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*

*Please stand as the bell sounds.*



# INTROIT

*sung by the Cantor*

*Hodie Christus natus est.  
Hodie Salvator apparuit, Alleluia.  
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,  
laetantur archangeli.  
Hodie exultant iusti, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Alleluia.*

Today Christ is born.  
Today the Savior has appeared, Alleluia.  
Today the angels sing,  
the archangels rejoice.  
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory be to God in the highest.  
Alleluia.

# HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
\*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.

Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)  
 Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

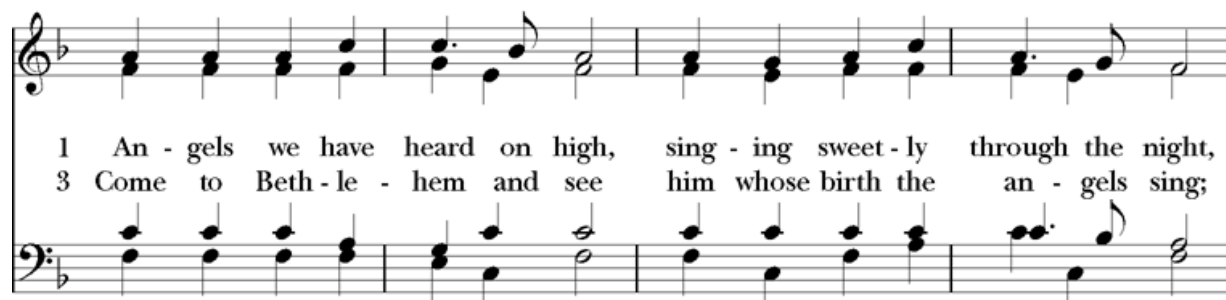
## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The Celebrant intones*

This day 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 52:7-10*

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sing a new song to God, \*  
who has done marvelous things.

With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm, \* you have won for yourself the  
victory.

You have made known your victory; \*  
your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.

You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \* and all the ends  
of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to God, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to God with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, \*  
shout with joy before our God who reigns in majesty.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before God, who will come to judge the earth;

God shall judge the world in righteousness \*  
and the peoples with equity.

Setting: William Crotch

## THE EPISTLE

*Hebrews 1:1-4*

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

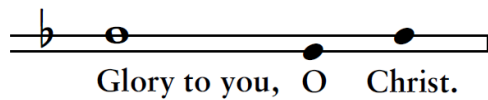
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

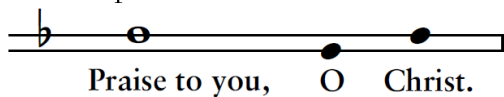
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.  
 Music: *Antioch*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

*The Rev. Paul Carling*

*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

God of wonder, on this holy day you become one of us. Startle us with your good news, and be born in our hearts, we pray.

Prince of Peace, you disarm the forces of violence. End all war and hatred, and unite every people and nation.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Child of the stable, you appear among the poor and the excluded. Reveal yourself to us in the forgotten and the dismissed.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Word made flesh, you sanctify our bodies with your presence. Teach us to treat the bodies of others and of ourselves with dignity and respect.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Vulnerable Savior, you know what it is like to suffer and be in need. Attend to those who yearn for your healing, including those on our Prayer List and those we now name:

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying)*

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Delight of the angels, you travel the distance between heaven and earth. Bring all who have died to the glories of your eternal home.

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying)*

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

God of wonder, you arrive in our lives in ways we neither anticipate nor comprehend. May we so marvel at the mystery of your Love come among us, that our hearts are renewed and our lives are transformed as you are daily born within us. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**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.*

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**Thank You!**

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### MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Cantor*

#### **Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BuxWV 100**

*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

*Versus II: Zion hört die Wächter singen*

*Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,  
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,  
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!  
Hosianna!  
Wir folgen all  
Zum Freudensaal  
Und halten mit das Abendmahl.*

Zion hears the watchmen sing,  
her heart leaps for joy,  
she awakes and gets up in haste.  
Her friend comes from heaven in his splendour,  
strong in mercy, mighty in truth.  
Her light becomes bright, her star rises.  
Now come, you worthy crown,  
Lord Jesus, God's son!  
Hosanna!  
We all follow  
to the hall of joy  
and share in the Lord's supper.

# HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*

*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 child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, 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 - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



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

*"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"*

Words: Piaae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)  
 Music: Personent hodie, melody from Piaae Cantiones, 1582

## 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 on this day 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 Mary's "Yes" brought forth 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,

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

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

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

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 (17<sup>th</sup> cent.)



MUSIC AT COMMUNION     *sung by the Cantor*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.


**Loving God, you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. As we stand at the manger and worship your Son, fill us with the message of the angels, so that we may be messengers of your love and goodness to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen.**


# HYMN IN PROCESSION



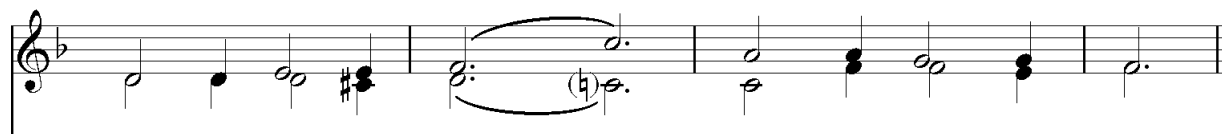
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt.

Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

## THE DISMISSAL

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

**Glory to God in the highest!**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

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

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

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