

The Nativity of Our Lord

Midnight Mass

25 December Anno ✝ Domini 2012



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

325 E. Warwick Dr. ~ Alma, MI 48801

(989) 463-5754 ~ www.peacealma.org

contact@peacealma.org

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

Home: (989) 463-3093 ~ Cell: (989) 388-2037

pastormesser@gmail.com

The Nativity of Our Lord

Midnight Mass

25 December Anno † Domini 2011



The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave on this most holy night, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayers

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

(When the acolytes have finished lighting the candles in the sanctuary, they will proceed down into the nave and light the individual candle of each person seated nearest the center aisle, who will, in turn, offer their light to the next person in the pew, and so on, until all individual candles have been lit. We will begin Midnight Mass on this solemn evening by candlelight, not extinguishing our individual candles until after the Collect of the Day.)

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross for the Reading of the Christmas Martyrology and Processional Hymn. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Reading of the Christmas Martyrology

P In the year 5,199 from the creation of the world, when in the beginning God created Heaven and Earth; in the year 2,957 from the Flood; in the year 2,015 from the birth of Abraham; in the year 1,510 from Moses and the Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt; in the year 1,032 from David's being anointed king; in the 65th week of years according to the prophecy of Daniel; in the 194th Olympiad; in the year 752 from the building of the city of Rome; in the 42nd year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace; in the sixth age of the world; Jesus Christ, the eternal God, and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify this world by His most merciful coming, being conceived of the Holy Ghost, and nine months since His conception having passed, in Bethlehem of Judea, is born of the Virgin Mary, being made man.

C The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to the Flesh.

The Processional Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
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 Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

The Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

The Christmas Versicles

- P** Lo, to us the Christ is born.
- C** O come, let us worship Him.
- P** The Lord said to me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten you.”
- C** The Lord sent redemption to His people, He has commanded His covenant forever.
- P** One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
- C** Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary’s Son, we praise You evermore.
- P** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!
- C** Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.



The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical Text



When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O LORD, descended from the | royal throne.

**Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against his a- | noointed.

**He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the LORD holds them in de- | rision.**

Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,*
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,

**“As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

When all was still, and it was | midnight,*
your almighty Word, O LORD, descended from the | royal throne.



The Kyrie



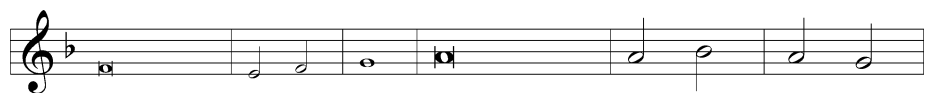
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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



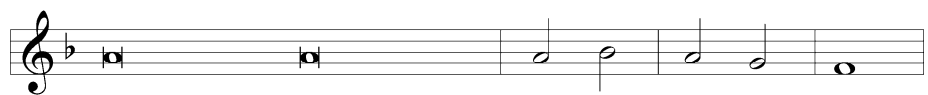
The Gloria in Excelsis



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



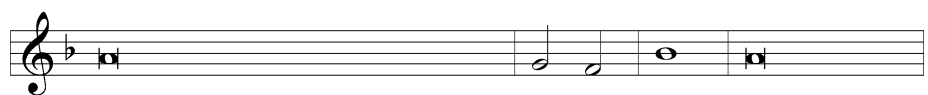
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



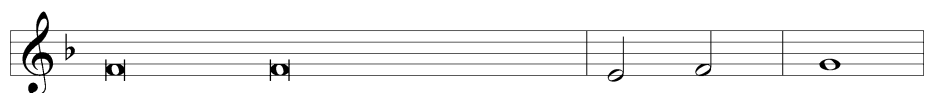
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



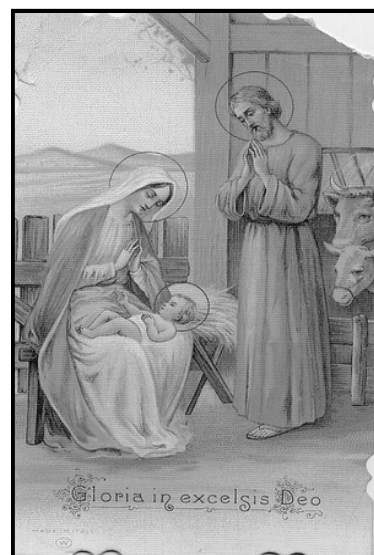
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.



The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Please be seated and carefully extinguish your candles

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

Ps. 98:3b-4a, 2

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

The Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia and Verse



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Verse (choir): The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.*



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

☐ This the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before

all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven *and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made* ✠ *man*; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

The Hymn of the Day: “What Child Is This” (Stanza 1 soloist Sarah Messer; Stanzas 2-3 all)

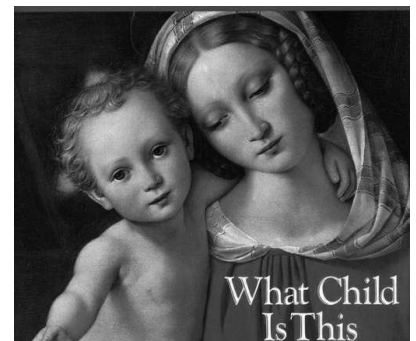
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!



The Sermon

Stand

The Hymn of Response: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.



Sit

The Offering is not gathered during Mass this evening. If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Mass. "O Holy Night" is sung as the holy altar is prepared for the Holy Supper of our Lord's Body and Blood on this Most Holy Night.

Stand

The Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to God our Father and worship Christ our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son: Heavenly Father, to whom glory is sung in the highest and peace is proclaimed to people on earth, give to Your holy Church the peace of sins forgiven and Your continued favor and merciful good will. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P On Christmas night You sent the angels to preach the good news of Jesus' birth. Give to all pastors of our Church courage to lead us boldly to the Christ Child. Fill us with joy that we may each make known abroad the glad tidings concerning this Child, that more may be given faith to confess Him as Lord. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P Bless our country, all its citizens, and all who are in authority over us. Cause Your glory to dwell among us, and let mercy, truth, and justice prevail everywhere, that throughout our land people may come to know the Prince of Peace. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P Merciful God, we thank You for the joys of family and friends this season, together with the abundance of Your blessings. Open our hearts and homes to the lonely and destitute that we may be Your instruments of love and charity. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P Remember, we pray, the homeless, hungry, and oppressed, and give them hope. Protect the lonely and homebound of our parish, and grant peace and healing to the sick, suffering, hospitalized, recovering, and all those who have requested our prayers (*including . . .*). Guide the journeys of those who travel. Comfort those who mourn. Create a new and contrite heart in the erring and faith in those who have not heard the good news. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P Lord God, make a manger in the hearts of all who come to the altar that they may treasure up and ponder the marvelous gifts of salvation You give there through the very body and blood of the Lord Jesus. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!

P In the birth of Your Son, O God, You have clothed us with eternal life. We remember with thanksgiving all those who have died in the faith. Unite our voices with theirs that we may join the heavenly song of angels. Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C Christ the Lord!


P For all these things and whatever else You would have us ask, we implore You to hear us gracious Father, through Jesus Christ our Savior, whom together with the Holy Spirit we praise, one God, now and forever.


C Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

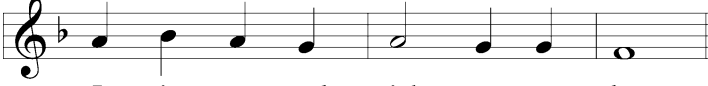

The Lord be with you.


C And with thy spir - it.


P Lift up your hearts.


C We lift them up un - to the Lord.


P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

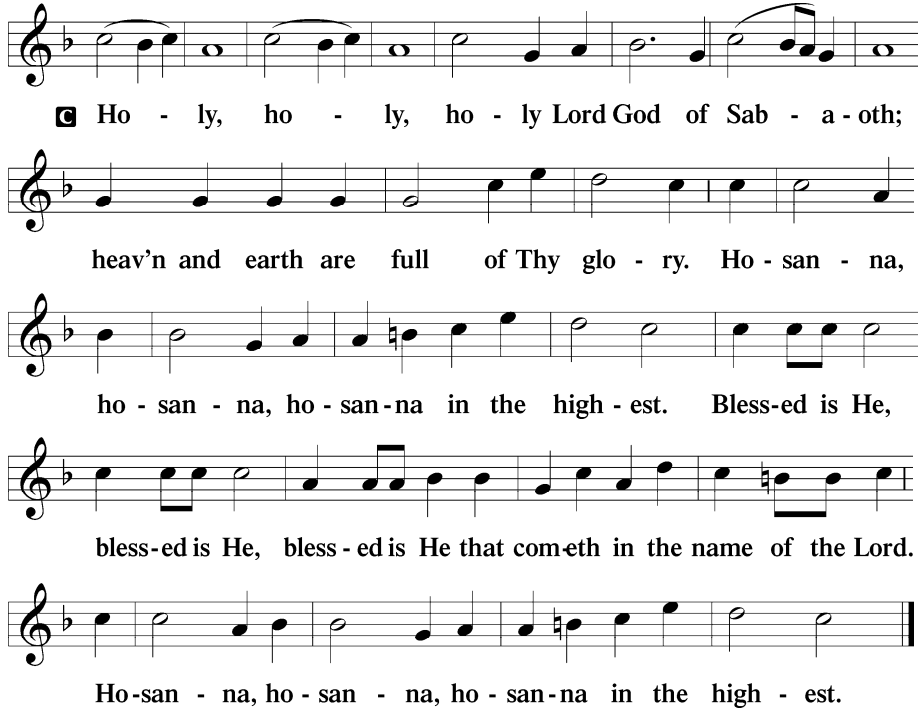

C It is meet and right so to do.



The Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and arch-angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer (*Chanted in Monotone*)

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.



The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Christmas Responsoy

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C He was in the beginning with God.

P All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

C In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Silence is observed to meditate upon the miracle and mystery of the Word made Flesh, our Holy and Incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us His very Body and Blood in the Most Holy Eucharist

The Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.



The Agnus Dei



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



The Distribution

(We receive our Holy and Incarnate Lord as He comes to us in His very Body and Blood in silence on this Most Holy Night)

The Dismissal

P The holy and precious, true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in His ☩ peace.

C Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.



The Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The Post-Communion Collect

P Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people who have kept the feast of this Most Holy Night, and who have received that same eternal Word in the Holy Eucharist, the grace to put away fleshly lusts, and the strength to persevere in the one, true faith that ever stands ready for Your Holy Visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

The Salutation and Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

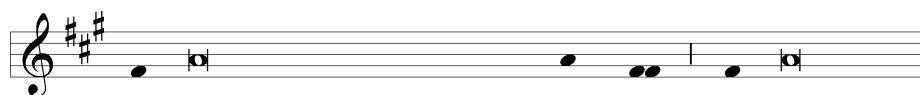


A Bless we the Lord.

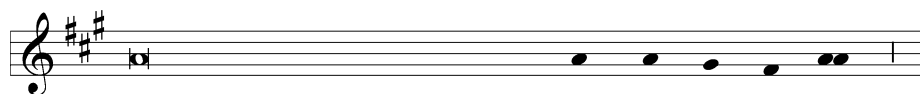


C Thanks be to God.

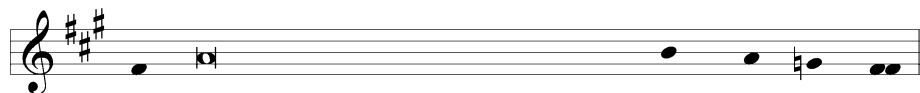
The Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Recessional Hymn: “Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
joy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n 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.



Text and Music: Public domain

Soli Deo Gloria!

Merry Christmas!

Peace Calendar

Tomorrow	Dec. 25	9:30 am	Divine Service - The Nativity of Our Lord
Wed-Fri	Dec 26-28		Church Office Closed
Thursday	Dec 27	5:00 pm	Weight Watchers
Sunday	Dec 30	9:30 am	Divine Service - Feast of the Circumcision/Name of Jesus (Obs.)
			(Installation of New Congregational Officers)
		10:45 am	Fellowship
		11:15 am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Monday	Dec 31	12:00 pm	Divine Service – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr (Obs.)
Wednesday	Jan 2	7:00 pm	Divine Service - Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Thursday	Jan 3	12:00 pm	Divine Service – Feast of The Holy Innocents
Sunday	Jan 6	8:30 am	Choir
		9:30 am	Divine Service – The Epiphany of Our Lord