

Solemn High Mass

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY

December 24, 2025 10:30 p.m.



Welcome to Atonement. We hope you will participate fully in tonight's service, as you feel comfortable. Customary times to stand, kneel, and sit are indicated by italic type. Words spoken by the people are indicated by bold type. Hymns can be found by number in the blue hymnal in the pewbacks.

THE PRELUDE

THE VOLUNTARY

Variations on "In dulci jubilo"

Denis Bédard (b.1950)

THE HYMN • 109

The first Nowell the angel did say

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*
2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*
5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*
6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

*O little town of Bethlehem**Forest Green*

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
4. Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.
5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893). Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE ANTHEM

Magnificat from “*Collegium Regale*”

Herbert Howells (1893–1982)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

It came upon the midnight clear

Carol

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810–1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819–1900).

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming

Benjamin C. S. Boyle (b.1979)

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

THE MASS

*The Mass Ordinary is “Missa ad Præsepe”
by George Malcolm (1917–1997).*

THE VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach (1686–1750)

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

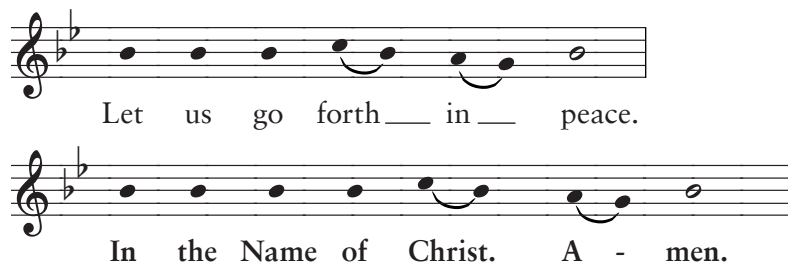
When the bell rings, please stand, as able, and the Choir sings

THE INTROIT

Dóminus dixit

The Lord hath said unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Why do the heathen so furiously rage together: and why do the people imagine a vain thing? Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

THE PROCESSION



*Once in royal David's city**Irby**The Soloist sings*

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

The Choir sings

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All join in singing verses 3–6

3. We, like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display
heaven's Word, the world's creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.

4. For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
where like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Sts. 1–2 and 4–6, Cecil Frances 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)

The Procession pauses at the crèche in the Mary Shrine.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Celebrant

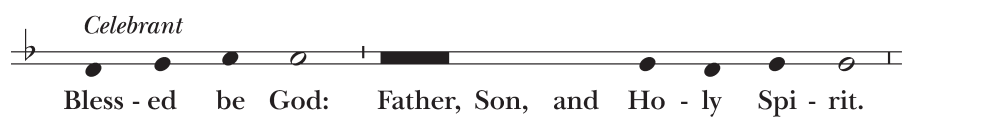
*O come, all ye faithful**Adeste fideles*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
2. God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
4. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711–1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711–1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

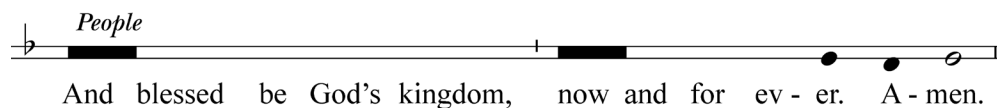
THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant



Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People



And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 KYRIE

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

THE GLORIA

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,
glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.*

*Domine Fili Unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
súscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your
great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated when the Altar Party sits, for the readings from scripture.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE PSALM • 96

Cantate Domino

Chant: **Thomas Norris (1741–1790)**

O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; be telling of his salvation from day to day. Declare his honour unto the heathen, and his wonders unto all peoples. For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised;* he is more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols; but it is the Lord that made the heavens. Glory and worship are before him; power and honour are in his sanctuary. Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the peoples, ascribe unto the Lord worship and power. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name; bring presents, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Tell it out among the heathen, that the Lord is King, and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the peoples righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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



Glo - ry to you, Lord Christ.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please stand, as able.

THE NICENE CREED

Setting: Dr Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

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 he is worshiped 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition, the People respond

Hear our prayer.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The People kneel, as able.


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 neighbors 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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Please stand, as able.


THE PEACE

Celebrant



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

People



And al - so with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If this is your first time here, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, which can be found in the pewbacks, and place it in the offering basket or hand it to the priest or an usher after the service.

Online Giving. The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says an Offertory sentence.

THE OFFERTORY PROPER

Læténtur cæli

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad: before the Lord, for He is come.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter (b.1945)

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our Heavenly King?
Awake the voice, awake the string

Dark and dull night, fly hence away
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turned to May
That sees December turned to May

Why does the chilling winter's mourn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see

The 'cause, why things thus fragrant be
It is He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth
To Heaven, and the under-Earth

We see him come, and know him ours
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers

The darling of the world is come
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him, to welcome him
The nobler part of all the house here is the heart

Which we will give him, and bequeath
This holy and this ivy wreath
To do him honour, who's our King
And Lord of all this revelling

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our Heavenly King?
Of this our Heavenly King, our King

Please stand, as able, and sing

THE HYMN • 105

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God Rest You Merry

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might."

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer I

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

THE SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or stand, as able, as the Celebrant continues the prayer.

All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of your dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we your humble servants celebrate and make here before your divine Majesty, with these holy gifts, the memorial your Son commanded us to make; remembering his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and his promise to come again.

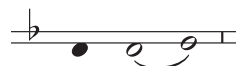
So now, O merciful Father, in your great goodness, we ask you to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, that we, receiving them according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; asking you to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his Blood, we and your whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we ask you to accept this duty and service we owe, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

Everyone is welcome to come forward at the sound of the bell. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion in both bread and wine. Please do not dip your bread in the wine. Gluten-free bread is available; please notify the priest as they come to you.

If you are not baptized, or if you prefer, you may receive a blessing from the priest instead: cross your arms over your chest to indicate this. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms over your chest after receiving the bread. Please remain in place until the person next to you has received Communion.

THE COMMUNION PROPER

In splendóribus

The dew of thy birth: is of the womb of the morning.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip Stopford (b.1977)

Lully lulla, lully lulla
Lully lulla, lully lulla
By by lully lullay
Lully lulla
Thou little tiny child
By by, lully lullay
Oh sisters too
How may we do
For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling
For whom we sing
By by lully lullay?
Lully lulla, lully lulla

Herod, the king
In his raging
Chargèd he hath this day
His men of night
In his own sight
All young children to slay
Lully lulla, lully lulla
That woe is me
Poor child for the!
And ever morn and day
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by lully lullay!

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

In the bleak midwinter,
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 midwinter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved
with a kiss.

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.

THE COMMUNION HYMN • 115

What child is this, who laid to rest

Greensleeves

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

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

THE COMMUNION HYMN • 81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940.
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

THE HYMN • 111

Silent night, holy night

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Please kneel or stand, as able, for

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able, for

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the congregation, to which the People respond

Thanks be to God.

THE CLOSING HYMN • 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the 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 newborn King!*

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915).

THE VOLUNTARY

Toccata sur “Il est né, le divin Enfant”

Denis Bédard (b.1950)

✠ ✠ ✠

*Please join us for refreshments after the service in Montgomery Hall,
through the double doors on the right side of the church.*

✠ ✠ ✠

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Deacon:* The Rev'd Charles Farrell; *Subdeacon:* Br Will White, CMJ; *Organist:* Charlie Sega; *Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Lectors:* Richard Kieckhefer, Hugh Smart; *Intercessor:* Jennifer Ash

A reminder that this public service may be photographed and/or videotaped and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear on the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media. Music usage licensing and agreements through Church Hymnal Corporation, New York, and OneLicense A-732906.



UPCOMING SERVICES

Thu., Dec. 25: Christmas Day, 10 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 28: 1st Sunday after Christmas Day, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m.
Thu., Jan. 1: The Feast of the Holy Name, 12 noon
Tue., Jan. 6: The Feast of the Epiphany 7 p.m.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

A special thank you to those who contributed to the Atonement flower fund, which provides for the poinsettias on the high altar this Christmas season. The flowers are given to the glory of God and...

In thanksgiving for blessings received by Leonard Caramela

In memory of deceased Cassidy, Dever, & Wahlers families by Ann & Tom Cassidy

In memory of Irene Witherington and Eugenia Kiebdaj by Derrick Witherington

In memory of Ann Oliver and John Ford by Charles Bonilla & Maggie Ford

For Julianna, JP & Abby, Kyle & Maggie by StanLee Kaderbek

In memory of Joe Moder, Ray Hoehne, Bob Spurlock, the Rev'd Canon Miller Cragon, Gregorio Alvarado Schafler, the Rt. Rev'd James Winchester Montgomery, and the Rev'd John Owens by Mike Trumbold

In memory of Mary Loewe by Elizabeth Loewe

In memory of Katie Remer and Tom Ferguson by Bob Remer and Pam Ferguson

In memory of Webster Waterman and Charles & Trula Everson by the Rev'd Charles Everson

Steven Britt & Michael Waltz

ONLINE GIVING The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



RESTROOMS are located in the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church. There is a changing table in each restroom.

SUPERVISED NURSERY CARE is available on the second floor of the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church.

To find out more about our ministries, visit atonementchicago.org or contact any of the staff listed below.

Clergy, Staff & Leadership

CLERGY AND STAFF

Bishop of Chicago: The Rt Rev'd Paula E. Clark; *Rector:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Deacon:* The Rev'd Charles Farrell; *Director of Music:* Charlie Sega; *Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Director of Operations & Communications:* Matt Rodgers; *Ministries & Pastoral Care Coordinator:* Kate Mayer; *Liturgical Coordinator:* Br Ron Fox BSG; *Sexton:* Gerardo Guzman

PRIEST ASSOCIATES

The Rev'd Dr Maurice Charles, The Rev'd Robert S. Cristobal, The Rev'd Kate Guistolise, The Rev'd John Moulder, The Very Rev'd Joy Rogers, The Rev'd Thomas C. H. Scott, The Rev'd Norma Sutton, The Rev'd Anne Wrider

VESTRY

Wardens: Dave Beil, Charles Bonilla; *Treasurer:* Tim Coe; *Clerk:* Michael Waltz
Jennifer Ash, Evie Aadland Coe, Glen Gabert, Aaron Johnson, Sena Leikvold, Amanda Patrick, Charlaire Reynolds, Br Will White CMJ, Alex Wyman

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS Low Mass 8 a.m., Family Mass 9 a.m., Solemn High Mass 11 a.m.

WEEKDAYS Monday and Friday 7:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon, Wednesday 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS The Holy Rosary 9:30 a.m., Healing Mass 10 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER Daily 8:30 a.m. *on Google Meet*

EVENING PRAYER Tuesday 5:30 p.m. *on Google Meet*

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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