



# The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
Living Crèche and Holy Eucharist Rite II

December 24, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

*Please adjust all electronic devices to silent settings.*

## OPENING VOLUNTARIES

Noel Suisse

Pastorale

Praeludium Pastorale (super gamut descendens)

Louis-Claude Daquin

Darius Milhaud

John Stainer

## THE ENTRANCE

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 83, (stanzas 1-3, 6) “O come, all ye faithful”

*Adeste fideles*

*Sung by all, standing.*

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| 1 O come, all ye faithful,<br>joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br>come, and behold him,<br>born the King of angels;<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,<br>sing in exultation,<br>sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;<br>glory to God,<br>glory in the highest:<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.        |
| 2 God from God,<br>Light from Light eternal,<br>lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;<br>only-begotten<br>Son of the Father;<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.                     | 6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,<br>born this happy morning;<br>Jesus, to thee be glory given;<br>Word of the Father,<br>now in flesh appearing;<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him,<br>O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. |

## CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

*Presider* The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

*People* **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

SONG OF PRAISE, HYMN 96, (stanzas 1-3) “Angels we have heard on high”

*Gloria*

*Sung by all.*

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| 1 Angels we have heard on high,<br>singing sweetly through the night,<br>and the mountains in reply<br>echoing their brave delight.<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo;<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo.  | 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?<br>Why these songs of happy cheer?<br>What great brightness did you see?<br>What glad tidings did you hear?<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo;<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo. |
| 3 Come to Bethlehem and see<br>him whose birth the angels sing;<br>come, adore on bended knee<br>Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo;<br>Gloria in excelsis Deo. |  |

## THE COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY

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

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LIVING CRÈCHE

### INTRODUCTION

**CAROL: HYMN 79** (stanza 1) “O little town of Bethlehem”

*St. Louis*

*Sung by all.*

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.

### MARY IS VISITED BY AN ANGEL

**CAROL: HYMN 89**, (stanza 1) “It came upon the midnight clear”

*Carol*

*Sung by all.*

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.

### THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

**CAROL: HYMN 100** (stanza 1) “Joy to the world! the Lord is come”

*Antioch*

*Sung by all.*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**CAROL: HYMN 105** (stanza 1) “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

*God Rest You Merry*

*Sung by all.*

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!

### THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

**CAROL: HYMN 109** (stanza 1) “The first Nowell the angel did say”

*The First Nowell*

*Sung by all.*

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.

**THE MAGI**

**CAROL: HYMN 128** (stanza 1) "We three kings of Orient are"

*Three Kings of Orient*

*Sung by all.*

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading,  
still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**CAROL: HYMN 79** (stanza 5) "O little town of Bethlehem"

*St. Louis*

*Sung by all.*

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!

**THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.** [*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*]

**THE RECTOR'S WELCOME**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand. Today you are invited to contribute to a Special Offering that will go to Holy Comforter's Outreach Ministries. Please use the green envelopes in the pews to designate your offering to Outreach Ministries.*

**AT THE OFFERTORY, VOLUNTARY:** Prelude to the *Christmas Oratorio*

Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. David Boulware-Kelley

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 367*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*The Presider continues.*]

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:

**SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 125**

Richard Proulx

*Sung by all.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presider continues and gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ and prays over the bread and wine.*

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People* **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*The Presider continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People* **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### INVITATION *[The People are seated.]*

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Comforter. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

#### COMMUNION MUSIC *[The hymns are sung by all; they may found in the blue Hymnal 1982.]*

HYMN 115 "What child is this, who, laid to rest"

HYMN 101 "Away in a manger, no crib for his bed"

*Greensleeves  
Cradle Song*

**AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION, HYMN 111 “Silent night, holy night”**

*Stille Nacht*

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|---|---|--|
| 1 Silent night, holy night,<br>all is calm, all is bright<br>round yon virgin mother and child.<br>Holy infant, so tender and mild,<br>sleep in heavenly peace.<br>Sleep in heavenly peace. | 2 Silent night, holy night,<br>shepherds quake at the sight,<br>glories stream from heaven afar,<br>heavenly hosts sing alleluia;<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born! | 3 Silent night, holy night,<br>Son of God, love’s pure light<br>radiant beams from thy holy face,<br>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.<br>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. |
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**THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER** *[Said by all.]*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE CHRISTMAS 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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 87 “Hark! the herald angels sing”**

*Mendelssohn*

*Sung by all, standing.*

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|---|--|
| 1 Hark! the herald angels sing<br>glory to the newborn King!<br>Peace on earth and mercy mild,<br>God and sinners reconciled!<br>Joyful, all ye nations, rise,<br>join the triumph of the skies;<br>with the angelic host proclaim<br>Christ is born in Bethlehem!<br>Hark! the herald angels sing<br>glory to the newborn King!                      | 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;<br>Christ, the everlasting Lord;<br>late in time behold him come,<br>offspring of the Virgin’s womb.<br>Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;<br>hail, the incarnate Deity.<br>Pleased as man with us to dwell;<br>Jesus, our Emmanuel!<br>Hark! the herald angels sing<br>glory to the newborn King! |
| 3 Mild he lays his glory by,<br>born that we no more may die,<br>born to raise us from the earth,<br>born to give us second birth.<br>Risen with healing in his wings,<br>light and life to all he brings,<br>hail, the Sun of Righteousness!<br>hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!<br>Hark! the herald angels sing<br>glory to the newborn King! |  |

**DISMISSAL** *[The people respond,]*

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY:** Prelude on *In dulci jubilo* (Hymn 107)

Johann Sebastian Bach