



The Feast of the Nativity

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

8:30 pm

Holy Trinity Parish

Decatur, GA

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the Child are holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

Gifts to the flower fund are given to the glory of God

In thanksgiving for

Our family especially our grand children
by Anthony Grant

Laura, Jacob, Nicholas, Skyler,
Ashlyn, and Jordyn
by Scott Miller

Our Godchildren, Hayley and Haden
by Peter and Charlotte Pfeiffer

a loving daughter in law
by Paula K. McPhail

Barbara Miller-Murphy
by Don Murphy

Park, Kana, and Luke
by Kimiko and Walter Miller

My family
by Tish Wallace

Prayers and love
of our Holy Trinity family
by Roy and Debby Johnson

In loving memory of

Carmen, Anita, Cameron, and
Reynold Grant, Wendy Freeman-Smith,
Mabel Belgrave, Herman Mayers,
Patricia Parris, Carlton Carter,
and Ricardo Mayers
by Anthony Grant

Robin J. Titterington
by Gertrude Beal

Loretta Duncan Morris
and Helen Bryan Ball
by Suzie and Tim Ball

Bill Skinner
by Judy, Chip, and Carey Skinner

Jan Jennings Crofford
by Keith Crofford

Our parents
by Mary and Dan Hinkel

Lanette Wright
by Dick Wright

Tom Gibbs
by Alison, Jackson, and James Gibbs

Kirk Miller
by Scott Miller

Betty Fregosi, Albert Fregosi, Henry
Fregosi, and Carroll Fregosi
by Giulia Galvin

Our Parents
by Peter and Charlotte Pfeiffer

Our family members and Dooley
by Susan and Charlie Arraiz

Sara and Tom Stafford,
Sandra Knight, and Jim Budd
by The Stafford Family

my father, John Donald McDougall
by Joy McDougall

Shedrick Holder, our friend
by Greg and Billie Mears

Thomas and Virginia Evans,
Thomas Holland Evans
by Ginna Evans

Marilynn Watley, Patrick Dougherty, and
Susan Dougherty
by the Watley Family

Beth Ingram
by Ellen Bishop

Margaret Kocurek
by Tom and Honey Mustard

Gifts to the music fund are given to the glory of God

In thanksgiving for

Our family especially our grand children
by Anthony Grant

Roland Timothy Getman
by Suzie and Tim Ball

Cary Beth, Kate, MacKenzie, and Wynne
by Barbara Hardin

Will Buthod and the music ministry
by Mary and Dan Hinkel

Laura, Jacob, Nicholas, Skyler,
Ashlyn, and Jordyn
by Scott Miller

Will Buthod and the choir
by Don and Barbara Murphy

Our Godchildren, Hayley and Haden
by Peter and Charlotte Pfeiffer

My Family
by Joanna Goldman

HTP
by Francis Daunt

Catalina, Mia, Will, Skylar and Ezra
by Lynne Pickens

Gregg Marx
by Marie Ransley

My family
by Tish Wallace

Prayers and love
of our Holy Trinity family
by Roy and Debby Johnson

Thanksgiving for Will and the choir
by Tom and Honey Mustard

In loving memory of

Carmen, Anita, Cameron, and
Reynold Grant, Wendy Freeman-Smith,
Mabel Belgrave, Herman Mayers, Patricia
Parris, Carlton Carter and Ricardo Mayers
by Anthony Grant

William Benjamin Morris and
Rolland Wallace Ball
by Susie and Tim Ball

Dot and Pop, Reade, and Lynne
by Barbara Hardin

Lanette Wright
by Dick Wright

Tom Gibbs
by Alison, Jackson, and James Gibbs

Mary Hancock Clark and for her music
legacy to Mary Martha Penner and Emma
Ruth Penner
by Bill and Barbara Clark

Kirk Miller
by Scott Miller

Our Parents
by Peter and Charlotte Pfeiffer

Cecil Waites
by Chotsy Waites

My sister
by Frank Smith

Cecil and Linda Pickens
by Lynne Pickens

my mother, Seena Ruth McDougall
by Joy McDougall

Montine Joyner, sister of Bille Mears
by Greg and Billie Mears

Annie and Gil Ransley
by Marie Ransley

Thomas and Virginia Evans, and
Thomas Holland Evans
by Ginna Evans

Joyce H Shortell, Lou Chaillou
by Greg and Elise Shortell

Steve Bishop
by Ellen Bishop

Richard Schrope
by Mary Schrope

R. Scott Wilson
by Amy Wilson

All deserve equal access to worship, study, and corporate prayer. All have gifts to contribute. Please speak to an usher or priest if your needs are not being met.



Welcome! We are so glad
you are here. If you are
visiting please use this QR
code to fill out a visitor card
or use the one in the pew.



Assisted Listening Devices
are available for all services in
the Nave. An usher is happy
to help you with one.

WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compar'd with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I miss'd of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten

Of one who is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, [so pure]
That I may come to thee.
Maria! [Mary]

All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]
Till our Lord was yborn,
De te genetrice. [through you, his mother]
With ave it went away,
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; [of salvation]
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis. [of virtue]

Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]
Of all thou bearest the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: [chosen]
Maid mild, mother
es effecta. [you are made]

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol, arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star, its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,

Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.

Gloria in excelsis Deo (from *Gloria*)

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory be to God on high.

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip WJ Stopford

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

Herod, the king
In his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might
In his own sight
All young children to slay

That woe is me
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand, as able.

OPENING HYMN 83

O come all ye faithful (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)

Adeste fideles

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;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People
And blessed be his 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.

A - men.

GLORIA

William Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer.

6. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY (*sung*)

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.**

ISAIAH 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the Lord,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout all the earth.
The Lord has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
 prepare the way for the people;
 build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones,
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.
 The Lord has proclaimed
 to the end of the earth:
 Say to daughter Zion,
 “See, your salvation comes;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.”
 They shall be called, “The Holy People,
 The Redeemed of the Lord”;
 and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
 A City Not Forsaken.”
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TITUS 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 99

Go tell it on the mountain

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
 over the hills and everywhere;
 go tell it on the mountain,
 that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
 rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
 and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

LUKE 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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.

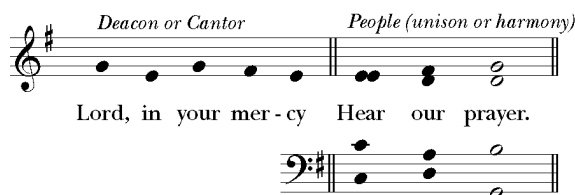
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, in this holy night your Son was born among us, and Christians all over the world sing for joy; renew your Church and open our hearts that Christ may find in us a dwelling place prepared for himself.

In this holy night, the angels sang of “Peace on earth and good will toward all.” We pray for the leaders of this country and all in authority, that they may work for peace and promote the well-being of all.

Silence.

When the bell rings, the cantor sings the bidding, and the congregation sings the response.



In this holy night, the shepherds found the Christ Child lying in a manger, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Joseph; bless our homes and families, and all those we love. We pray especially for those who are without a home on this night.

Silence.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The darkness of this night is scattered with the light of Christ's presence; bring comfort to all who suffer, who grieve, or who are alone.

Silence.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In the word made flesh, you have joined heaven and earth; keep in safety all those who have died and bring us all to the joys of heaven.

Silence.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

O Father of mercy, whose Son Jesus took upon himself our nature, that he might bear our sorrows, be the companion of our journeys, and the forgiveness of our sins; pour out on us your Holy Spirit, that as Christ was born in our likeness, even so may we grow into his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

**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.**

PEACE

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to give online,
use your phone's camera to scan this QR code.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Lord has come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels,
called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.
Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

PRESENTATION AND CENSING OF THE ALTAR

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power 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:

SANCTUS

William Mathias

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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.”

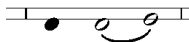
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

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, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary 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,

All 
A-men.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER



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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Gerald Near



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians of any age and tradition are invited to receive Holy Communion, and no one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away. To receive a blessing instead of the sacrament cross your arms over your chest.

Intinction (dipping) is best reserved for the sick and the very young. To receive via intinction allow the minister to dip the bread into the wine and place it in your hands. Please do not dip the bread into the wine yourself.

AT THE ALTAR RAIL - you are welcome to stand or kneel. You may either drink from the chalice or let the minister intinct (dip) the bread into the wine for you.

AT THE FLOOR STATION - the bread is gluten-free. You may drink from the cup or let the minister intinct (dip) the bread into the wine for you.

If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let an usher know.

HYMN 101

Away in a manger

Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

HYMN 109

The first nowell

The First Nowell

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.

Refrain *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*
 born is the King of Israel.

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

HYMN 96

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high,
 singing sweetly through the night,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their brave delight. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

POSTCOMMUNION HYMN 111 Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

As communion concludes, acolytes light the people's candles.

The lights dim and all kneel to sing the hymn:

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

LAST GOSPEL

Remain kneeling, as able.

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.

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. From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

PROCESSIONAL HYMNAL 87

Hark! The herald angels sing

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!

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

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!

Refrain

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!

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Postlude on Go tell it on the mountain

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