

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 25, 2025 - 11:00AM

PRELUDE

*Echo Noël – Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 – 1772)
Arr. Virgil Fox (1912 – 1980)*

Please stand as the bell sounds.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

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.

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

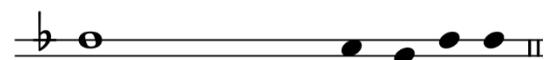
Refrain

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

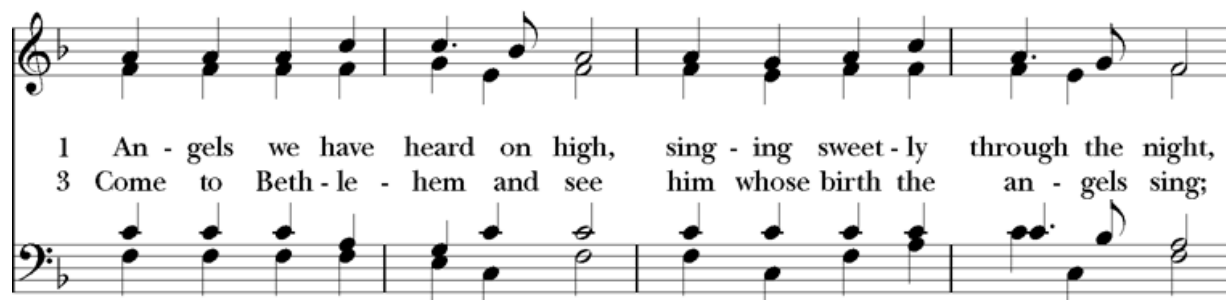
OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Blessed be God: eternal Source, begotten Word, and abiding Spirit.



Glory to God fore-ver and ev-er.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LESSON *seated*

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.



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

With your right hand, O God, and your | holy arm, *
you have won for your-| self the victory.

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

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

Shout with joy to God, | all you lands; *
lift up your voice, re-| joice, and sing.

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

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

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

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

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

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

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

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

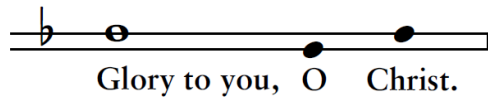
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, and re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.

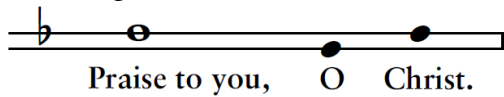
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: *Antioch*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

God of wonder, in this holy season you take our flesh and dwell among us. Open us to your good news, and let your light take root in our hearts.

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

Ruler of the nations, you cast down the powers that thrive on violence and fear. Break the cycles of war and hatred, and draw the peoples of the earth toward justice and peace.

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

Child of promise, you come among the poor, the overlooked, and the cast aside. Reveal your presence to us in those the world forgets or refuses to see.

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

Word made flesh, you bless our bodies by making them your dwelling place. Teach us to honor the bodies of others and our own with reverence, care, and compassion.

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

Vulnerable Savior, you share our suffering and know our need. Draw near to all who long for healing and wholeness, especially those we name before you now.

(Silence or spoken names)

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

Joy of heaven and hope of earth, you bridge the distance between life and death. Receive into your eternal joy all who have died, especially those we name now.

(Silence or spoken names)

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

The Celebrant concludes

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

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

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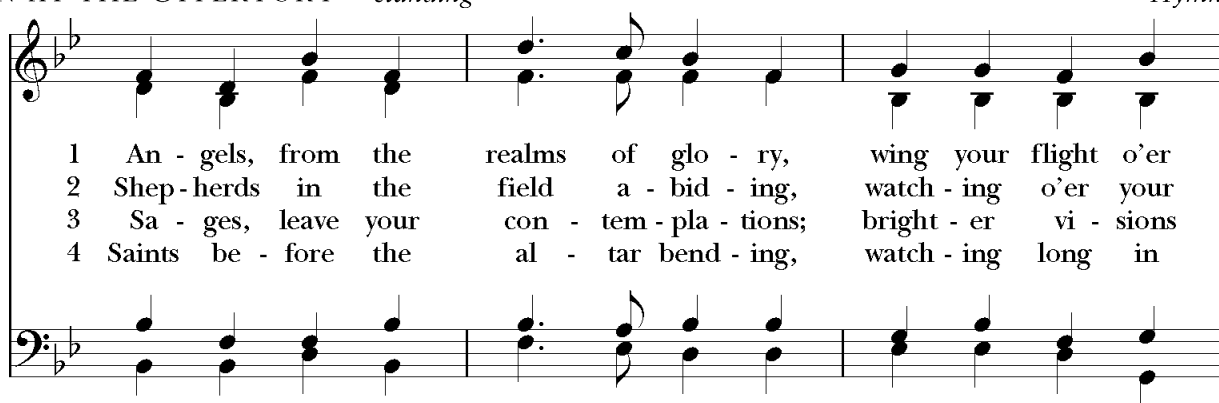
MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

*Der Tag der ist so freudenreich
Aller Kreature;
Denn Gottes Sohn vom Himmelreich
Über die Nature
Von einer Jungfrau ist geboren.
Maria, du bist auserkorn,
Dass du Mutter wärest.
Was geschah so wundergleich?
Gottes Sohn vom Himmelreich,
Der ist Mensch geboren.*

O hail this brightest day of days,
All good Christian people!
For Christ hath come upon our ways,
Ring it from the steeple!
Of maiden pure is He the Son;
For ever shall thy praise be sung,
Christ's fair mother Mary!
Ever was there news so great?
God's own Son from heaven's high state
Is born the Son of Mary!

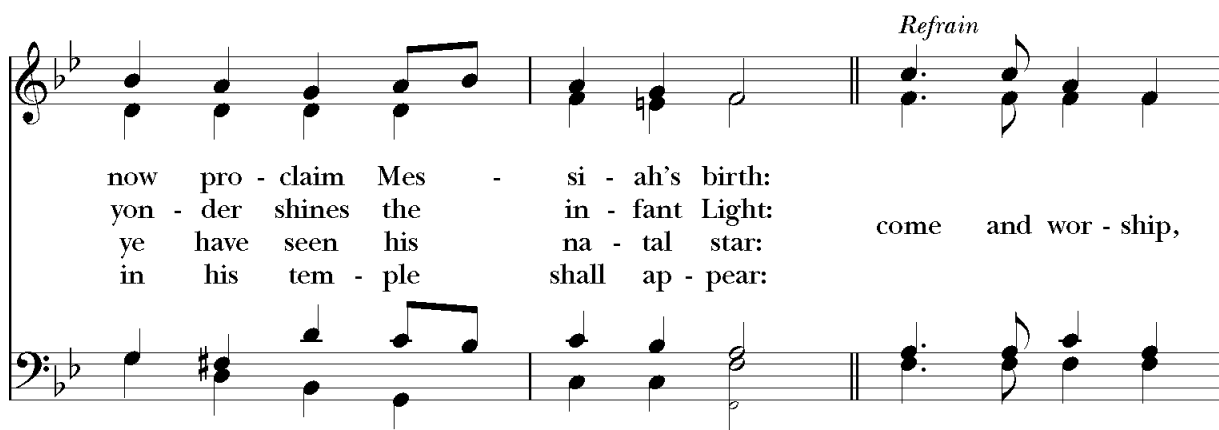


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

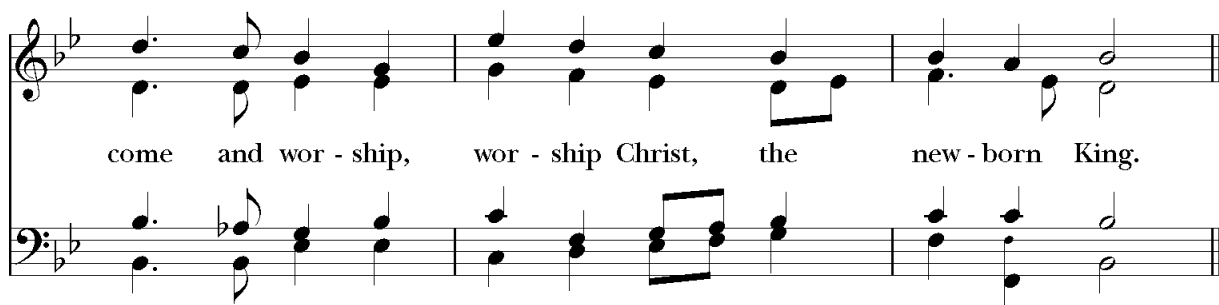


all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain



now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt.
 Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813–1879)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, radiant with light, before time you spoke the Word, and all creation came to be. In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. In Jesus your glory shines, not as conquering power, but as love that abides. And so, with all who have received him in ages past, and with the whole company of heaven, we praise your holy Name as we sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,

10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav - en and earth are

19 full, full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high -

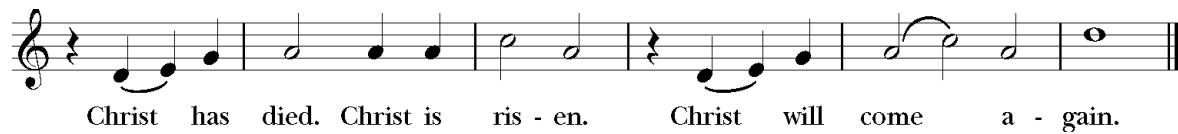
28 est. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is he who comes

37 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

43 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh. On the night he was handed over to death, he gathered his friends at table. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, given for you." After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, for the remembrance of me." Be among us now, O Christ, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)

Come now, Holy Spirit. Overshadow us as you overshadowed Mary. Bless these gifts of bread and wine, and make us one body in Christ. As Mary's Yes opened the door to heaven, may Christ be born again in us, in our grief and in our gladness, for the life of the world. All this we ask in the risen life of the One who joins heaven and earth, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and for ever.



Music: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,

The first system of musical notation for 'The Lord's Prayer'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,'.

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

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are: 'your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.'.

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

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'And for-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.'.

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

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.'.

For the king-dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The fifth system of musical notation. It concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'For the king-dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.'

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

Alleluia! The Word was made flesh and dwells among us.

This is the Bread of Heaven, broken for the life of the world. Alleluia!

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers.
Gluten-free hosts are available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups.*

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.

1 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -

1 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the

1 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.

Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879–1943)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Loving God,
we thank you for feeding us with your living Word.
In this sacrament, you have drawn us into his life,
full of grace and truth.
Send us out now to live as children of the light,
bearing witness to your love in all the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May the Word made flesh dwell in you richly.
May the light of Christ shine in your hearts and guide your steps.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live the love made known in Christ.
 Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

9 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Organ

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:00pm New Years Eve Service with Burning Bowl

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

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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