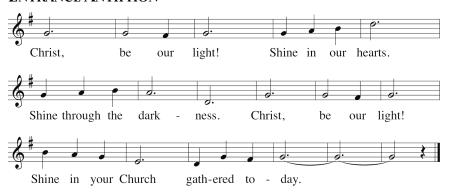


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Gertrude Church

December 18, 6 p.m.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON



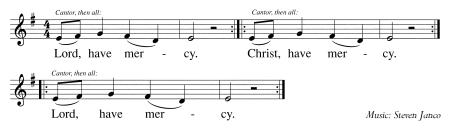
Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. R.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. R.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. R.

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell

Kyrie



READING IIsaiah 7:10–14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.



The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. R.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. R.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. R.

Music: Owen Alstott

READING II Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 1:23



The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. \tilde{R} .

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2–11

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

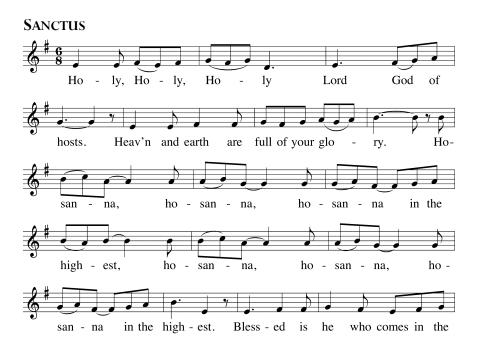
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

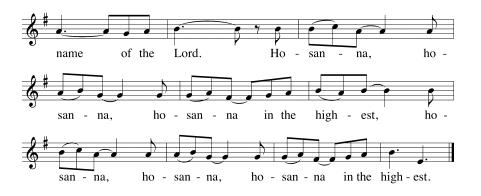
Almighty Father, you have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes, and hearts fruitful ground for your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, and faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church. We commend our prayer for vocations to you, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY

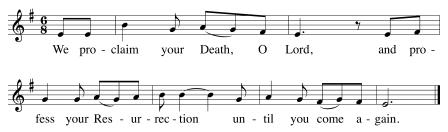
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

St. Michael Hymnal 774

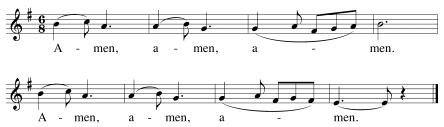




MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

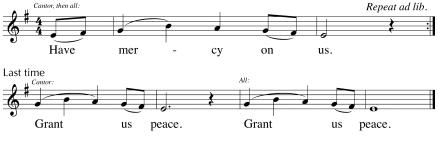


AMEN



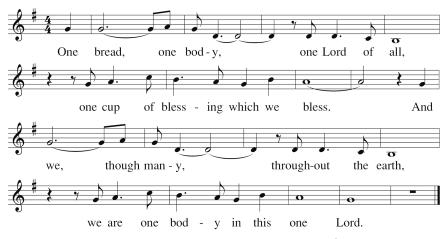
AGNUS DEI

Cantor, then all:



Music: Steven Janco

COMMUNION



Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. R.

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. R.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. R.

Words: after 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 12:4, 12–13, 20; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:4–6; The Didache 9 Music: James Quinn, S.J.

MEDITATION

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God, my Savior. You have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.

And holy is your name through all generations! Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen, and holy is your name!

I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward that my name will be remembered, and the world will call me blessed.

I proclaim your power, O God! You work wonders for your servants; you have scattered the proudhearted, you have lifted up the lowly.

To the hungry you give food, send the rich away with nothing. In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen.

In your love you now fulfill all you promised to your people. I will praise you, God, my Savior, everlasting is your mercy.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Words: after the O Antiphons Music: Steve Angrisano

