



ST. GERTRUDE
CHURCH



NATIVITY OF THE LORD
MASS AT DAWN

December 25, 2023 at 8 A.M.

Cover: The Nativity with Six Dominican Friars, Imola, northern Italy, thirteenth century



ORDER OF MASS

Nativity of the Lord: Dawn

PRELUDE

A Child is Born in Bethlehem, BWV 603

Johann Sebastian Bach

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

At the ringing of the sacristy bell, all stand and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 548

INTROIT

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos:
quia natus est nobis Dominus:
et vocabitur Admirabilis, Deus,
Principes pacis, Pater futuri saeculi:
cujus regni non erit finis.

As the celebrant censes the altar, the cantor sings:

*Today a light will shine upon us,
for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.*

Words: after Isaiah 9:2, 6 and Luke 1:33

Music: Dominican Chant

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

All strike their breast three times

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

KYRIE, ELEISON

Cantor: Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. *All:* Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Chris - te, e - le - i - son. *All:* Chris - te, e - le - i - son.
Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. *All:* Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Missa XVI

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Celebrant/Cantor: *All:*

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Et in ter - ra pax ho - mi - ni - bus
Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to people of

bo - næ vo - lun - ta - tis. Lau - da - mus te. Be - ne - di - ci - mus te.
good will. We praise you. We bless you.

A - do - ra - mus te. Glo - ri - fi - ca - mus te.
We adore you. We glorify you.

Gra - ti - as a - gi - mus ti - bi prop - ter mag - nam glo - ri - am tu - am.
We give thanks to you for your great glory,

Do - mi - ne De - us, Rex cæ - le - stis, De - us Pa - ter om - ni - po - tens.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God the Father almighty.

Do - mi - ne Fi - li u - ni - ge - ni - te Je - su Chri - ste.
O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Do - mi - ne De - us, Ag - nus De - i, Fi - li - us Pa - tris.
Lord God, Lamb of God Son of the Father.

Qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di, mi - se - re - re no - bis.
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di,
You take away the sin of the world,

su - sci - pe de - pre - ca - ti - o - nem no - stram.
receive our prayer.

Qui se - des ad dex - te - ram Pa - tris, mi - se - re - re no - bis.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.

Quo - ni - am tu so - lus San - ctus. Tu so - lus Do - mi - nus.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.

Tu so - lus Al - tis - si - mus, Je - su Chri - ste.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

Cum San - cto Spi - ri - tu, in glo - ri - a De - i Pa - tris.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

A - - - men.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Missa VIII "De Angelis"

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

Isaiah 62:11–12

See, the LORD proclaims to the ends of the earth: say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the LORD, and you shall be called “Frequented,” a city that is not forsaken.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12



A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad.
The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory. *℟.*

Light dawns for the just; and gladness, for the upright of heart.
Be glad in the LORD, you just, and give thanks to his holy name. *℟.*

Music: Dominican Chant — Benedictus qui venit (Responsorium), adapted Christopher Holman

READING II

Titus 3:4–7

Beloved: when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

All stand



Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. *℟.*

*Verse: Luke 2:14
Music: Gregorian Chant*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:15–20

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

HOMILY

The Reverend Joachim Kenney, O.P.

CREDO

All stand

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

All genuflect

All stand

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Each petition concludes with:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

After the final petition, all say:

**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.**

*Words: The Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, D.D.,
Archbishop of Cincinnati*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High

All sit and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 428

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All stand

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

May our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord, of the mysteries of the Nativity this day, that, just as Christ was born a man and also shone forth as God, so these earthly gifts may confer on us what is divine. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The celebrant says the Preface. At the end, all sing:

Cantor: San - ctus,
Holy,

All: San - ctus,
Holy,

San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.
Holy Lord God of Hosts.

Ple-ni sunt cæ-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.
Full are heaven and earth of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne Do-mi-ni.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Missa XVIII "Deus Genitor alme"

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel

The celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer. After the words of Consecration, the celebrant sings:

The mystery of faith.

Cantor:

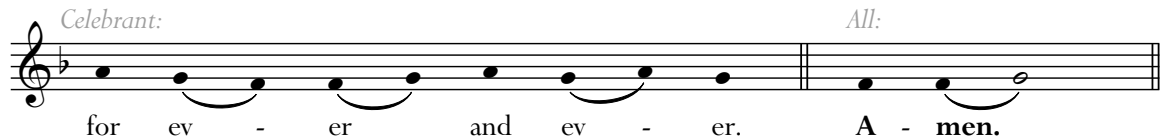
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

All:

we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer the celebrant takes the chalice and the paten with the host, and raising both, sings:

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,



THE LORD'S PRAYER

All stand

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: *Peace I leave you, my peace I give you*, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

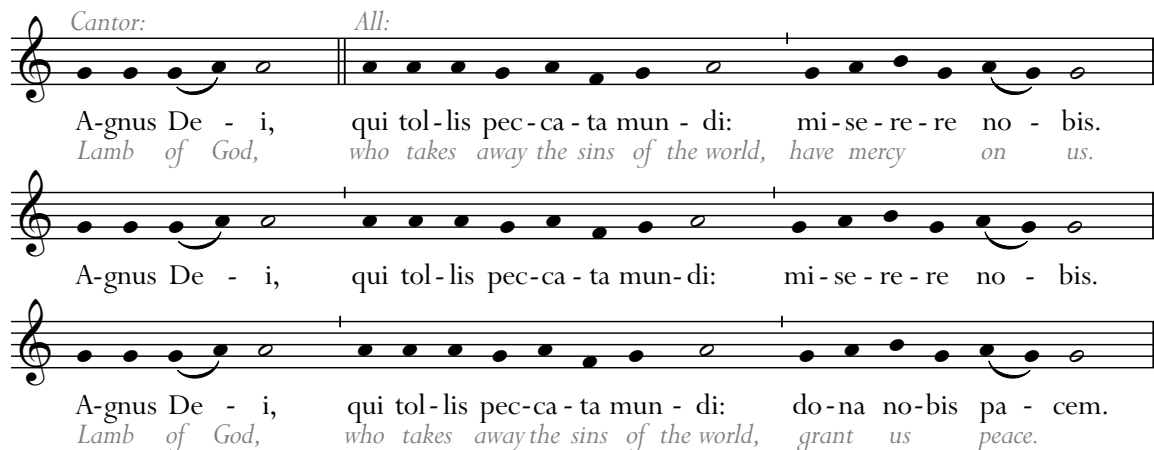
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another a sign of peace

AGNUS DEI



Cantor: *All:*

A-gnus De - i, qui tol-lis pec-ca - ta mun - di: mi-se-re-re no - bis.
Lamb of God, *who takes away the sins of the world,* *have mercy on us.*

A-gnus De - i, qui tol-lis pec-ca - ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no - bis.

A-gnus De - i, qui tol-lis pec-ca - ta mun - di: do-na no-bis pa - cem.
Lamb of God, *who takes away the sins of the world,* *grant us peace.*

Music: Gregorian Chant, Missa XVIII "Deus Genitor alme"

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All kneel

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

The cantor sings:

Exsulta filia Sion,
lauda filia Jerusalem:
ecce Rex tuus venit sanctus,
et Salvator mundi.

☩. Viderunt omnes termini terrae
salutare Dei nostri.

☩. Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat
in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Rejoice, O Daughter Sion;
lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:
Behold, your King will come, the Holy One
and Savior of the world.*

☩. *All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.*

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

Antiphon: after Zechariah 9:9

Verse: Psalm 98:3b

Music: Dominican Chant

MEDITATION

Good Christian Men, Rejoice, BuxWV 197

The organist plays:

Dieterich Buxtehude

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

Grant us, Lord, as we honor with joyful devotion the Nativity of your Son, that we may come to know with fullness of faith the hidden depths of this mystery and to love them ever more and more. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

All bow

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

Amen.

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

Amen.

And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favor and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

All kneel

**Saint 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.**

RECESSION

Joy to the World

All stand and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 594