



# ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH



## NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL MASS

December 24, 2023  
3 P.M. in the Gym

*Cover: Nativity, Edward Messeyne, 1889*

# PRELUDE

## CAROL

Wake From Your Sleep

*All sing:*

*Journeysongs 301*

## MEDITATION

*The ensemble sings:*

Wood of the cradle, wood of the cross, bearing a lifetime of joy and of loss, who is your loved one? Who could it be, born in a manger to die on a tree?

*This, this is Jesus the Lord, here in the body and blood outpoured.*

*Come, come, walk in his ways. Kneel at the manger and rise from the grave.*

Shepherds lie sleeping, deep in their dreams; angels awaken them: “What could this mean? Whom do you herald? Whom must we find? A child in a manger? Our God born in time?”

Come, all who hunger, come, all who thirst; come, all who seek him, God’s joy on the earth. Find him a shelter, bright, safe, and warm; see in all people his love being born.

*Words and music: Francis Patrick O’Brien*

## CAROL

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*All sing:*

*Journeysongs 332: Verses 1–3*

## MEDITATION

*The ensemble sings:*

A virgin most pure as the prophets do tell hath brought forth a baby as it hath befell to be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin which Adam’s transgression had wrapped us in.

*And therefore be merry, set sorrows aside, Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.*

Then God sent an angel from heaven so high to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie and bade them no longer in sorrow to stay for the long-promised Savior was born on that day.

Then presently after the shepherds did spy a number of angels above in the sky  
Who joyfully shouted and sweetly did sing to God be all glory, our heavenly King!

*Words and music: Mark Sedio, arr. Paul Kindt*

## CAROL

See Amid the Winter’s Snow

*All sing:*

*Journeysongs 321*



# ORDER OF MASS

Nativity of the Lord: Vigil

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## HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*All stand and sing:*

*Journeysongs 300: Verses 1 and 3*

## 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


*The ensemble sings each phrase first, then all repeat.*




Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Music: Owen Alstott*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS




Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.




We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy you,




we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav'n-ly King, O




God, al-might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On - ly Be-got-ten



Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,



you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us;



you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.

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

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

*Music: Owen Alstott*

## COLLECT

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*All sit*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## READING I

*Isaiah 62:1–5*

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 89:4–5, 16–17, 27 and 29*



For ev - er I will sing the good-ness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations. *℟.*

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted. *℟.*

He shall say of me, "You are my father, my God, the rock, my savior."  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm. *℟.*

*Music: Owen Alstott*

## READING II

*Acts 13:16–17, 22–25*

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.’ From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA

*All stand*



Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Savior of the world will reign over us. **℟.**

*Verse: Roman Missal  
Music: Michael Joncas*

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 1:18–25*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

What Child is This

Child of the Poor

*All sit and sing:*

*Journeysongs 330*

*Journeysongs 331*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

*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.**

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PREFACE DIALOGUE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

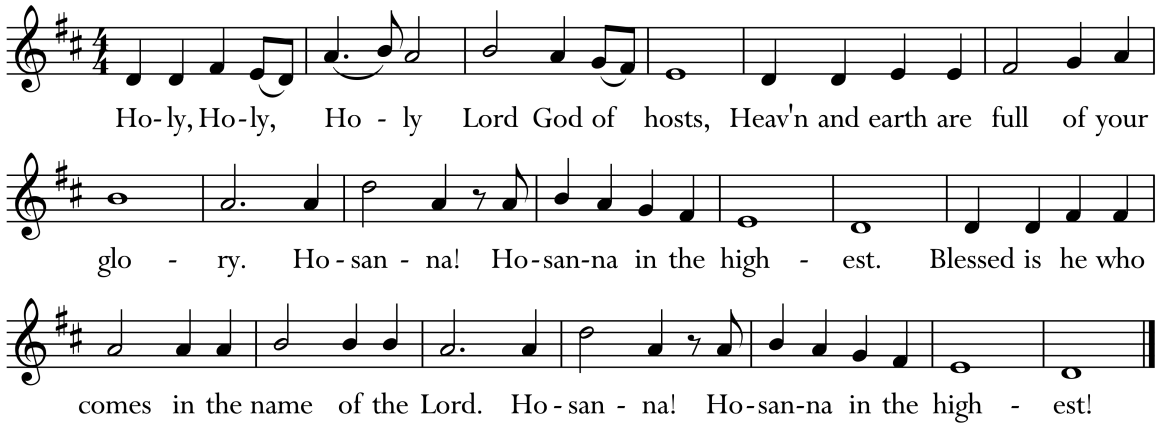
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**



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



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho-san-na in the high - est. Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na! Ho-san-na in the high - est!

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*All kneel or sit*

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

The mystery of faith.



We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your  
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come, un - til you come a - gain.

*Music: Owen Alstott*

*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,



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

*Music: Owen Alstott*

## 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.**

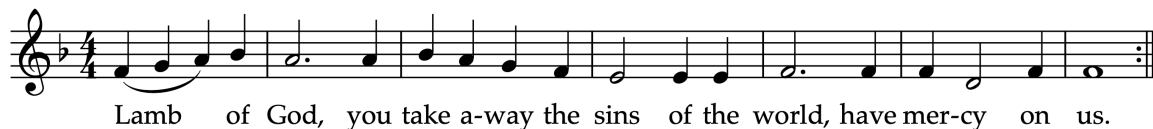
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All offer one another a sign of peace*

## AGNUS DEI



*Music: Owen Alstott*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All kneel or sit*

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

Silent Night

*All sing:*

*Journeysongs 309*

## MEDITATION

*The ensemble sings:*

Silent, in the chill of midnight, starlight shines upon a lowly manger.  
Wonder, wonder of the ages; heaven breaks forth on the earth.

*For a child is born, the world rejoices! Shepherds and angels proclaim his birth.  
This is Jesus the Lord, our Savior and brother, bearing God's peace to the earth.*

“Fear not,” said angelic voices; “tidings of a wondrous love we bring you.  
Go now, find him in a manger; visit God’s home on the earth.”

Jesus, Lord of all creation, sleep now close beside your mother, Mary.  
Bring us light amid the darkness, promise of life without end.

*Words and music: Francis Patrick O'Brien*

## CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

*All sing:*

*Journeysongs 308: Verses 1–3*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*All stand*

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigor from celebrating the Nativity of your  
Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives  
and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

# THE CONCLUDING RITES

## SOLEMN BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

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 remain standing*

**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.**

## HYMN

*All sing:*

Joy to the World

*Journeysongs 303: Verses 1, 2, and 4*

## POSTLUDE

*The ensemble sings:*

Sing Alleluia

*Francis Patrick O'Brien*