



ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH



NATIVITY OF THE LORD MIDNIGHT MASS

December 25, 2023

Cover: The Nativity with the Annunciation to the Shepherds, *Master of the Dominican Effigies*, c. 1340

PRELUDE: A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

MOTET

At 11:30 P.M., the choir sings:

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.”

Words: attr. Luke Wadding, O.F.M.

Music: David Willcocks

CAROL

All sing:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Saint Michael Hymnal 666: verses 1 and 4

MOTET

The choir sings:

In dulci jubilo
Let us our homage show;
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio.
And like a bright star shineth,
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O.

In sweet joy

In a manger.

*In the mother's lap
You are Alpha and O[mega].*

O Jesu parvule
I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee,
O puer optime!
My prayer let it reach thee,
O Princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te!

O tiny Jesus

O the greatest of boys!

*O Prince of glory!
Draw me unto you!*

O patris caritas,
O nati lenitas
Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina;
But thou hast for us gained
Caelorum gaudia.
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia
If that they be not there?
There are angels singing
Nova cantica,
There the bells are ringing
In Regis curia:
O that we were there!

*O love of the Father,
O gentleness of the Newborn,*

By our sins;

The joy of Heaven

Where are there joys

New songs

In the court of the King:

Words: Heinrich Seuse

Music: Robert Pearsall

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

All sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 578: Verses 1 and 4

MOTET

Sleep, baby, sleep; what ails my dear?
What ails my darling thus to cry?
Be still, my child, and lend thine ear
To hear me sing thy lullaby.
Be still, my dear sweet baby, sleep.

Sleep, baby, sleep, and nothing fear,
For whosoever thee offends,
By thy protector threatened are,
And God and angels are thy friends.
Be still, my dear sweet baby, sleep.

Words: George Wither

Music: Elizabeth Stirling

CAROL

Away in a Manger

All sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 444: Verses 1 and 3

MOTET

The choir sings:

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King;
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold.
When the new heav'n and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole earth send back the song
That now the angels sing:
Peace on the earth, good will to men. Amen!

O ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow!
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Sears

Music: Amy Beach



ORDER OF MASS

Nativity of the Lord: Midnight

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*A Dominican novice chants the announcement of the
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the Roman Martyrology.*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Directly following the Proclamation, all stand and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 648: Verses 1, 3, and 4

INTROIT

Dominus dixit ad me:
Filius meus es tu,
ego hodie genuite.

As the celebrant censes the altar, the choir sings:

The Lord said to me:

You are my Son.

It is I who have begotten you this day.

Words: Psalm 2:7

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: *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

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. 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 9:1–6

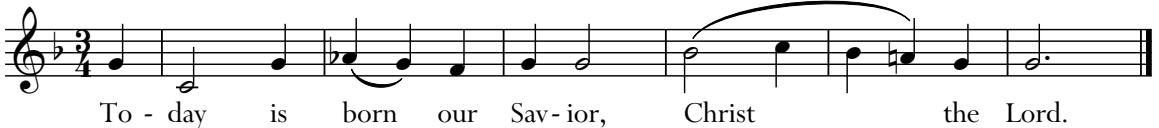
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13



Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name. **℟.**

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. **℟.**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest
exult. **℟.**

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy. **℟.**

Antiphon: Luke 2:11

Music: Dominican Chant — Tecum principium, adapted Christopher Holman

READING II

Titus 2:11–14

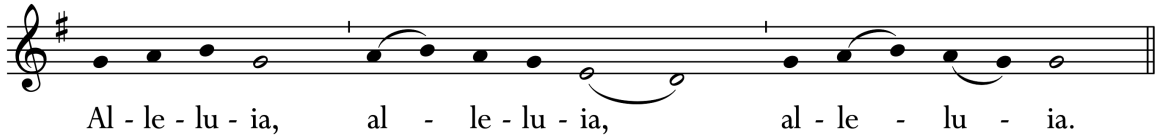
Beloved: the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

All stand



I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord. *R.*

Verse: Luke 2:10–11
Music: Gregorian Chant

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–14

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

HOMILY

The Reverend Luke VanBerkum, 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 kneel

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

Silent Night

All sit and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 744

MOTET

The choir sings:

Tollite hostias, et adorate
Dominum in atrio sancto ejus.
Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra
a facie Domini, quoniam venit.

*Bring forth your offerings and adore
the Lord in his holy place.
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth exult
before the face of the Lord, for he has come.*

Words: Psalm 96:9, 11, 13

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns

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.**

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this
most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united
to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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. After, all sing:

Cantor: *All:*

San - ctus, Holy, 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:

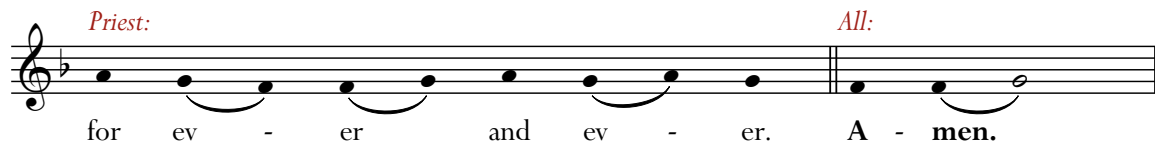
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
The mystery of faith.

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.

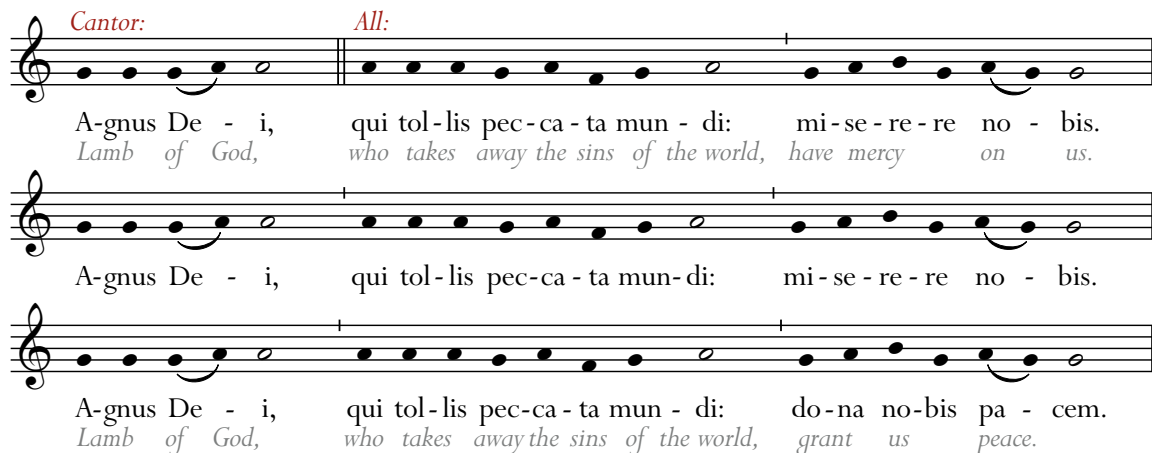
And with your spirit.

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 choir sings:

In splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero
ante luciferum genui te.

Ÿ. Viderunt omnes termini terrae
salutare Dei nostri.

Ÿ. Tecum principium
in die virtutis tuae.

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

*In the splendor of holiness, from the womb
before the dawn, I have begotten you.*

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

Ÿ. *With you is princely rule
from the day of your birth.*

Ÿ. *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: Psalm 110:3; verses: Psalm 98:3b, Psalm 110:3a

Music: Dominican Chant

MOTET

The choir sings:

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

*O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord
lying in a manger.
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

*Words: Responsory for Matins of Christmas Day
Music: Morten Lauridsen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honorable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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

All stand and sing:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Saint Michael Hymnal 548: Verses 1 and 3

Descant: David Willcocks

POSTLUDE

The organist plays:

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, BWV 606

Johann Sebastian Bach