

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT



*Madonna and Child, Giovanni Bellini, c. 1480*

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
DECEMBER 25, 2023

*Presented by the Walter Bailey family in memory of Nancy Perrin Bailey*

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. We are glad you are worshipping God with us on this great feast; we hope you will rejoin us throughout the year. This order of worship, which follows the structure of the Mass, is provided to assist you in your prayer and participation. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Out of courtesy and in keeping with the reverence of Holy Mass, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice. Please join in singing the carols below.

## PRELUDE

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

GUSTAV HOLST

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger-full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

—Poem by Christina Rossetti



CAROL: IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

CAROL

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.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And 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. O rest beside the weary road, and 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 peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

CONCERTO IN C FOR VIOLIN AND OBOE, BWV 1060

J.S. BACH

I. ALLEGRO II. ADAGIO



AVE MARIA

ROBERT PARSONS

*Words (in Latin) from the traditional "Hail Mary" prayer.*

CAROL: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains. *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song. *Gloria...*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Gloria...*

See him in a manger laid Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise. *Gloria...*

NOËLS FOR CHRISTMAS

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

AWAY IN A MANGER

PAUL SJOLUND

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky look down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for Heaven, to live with Thee there.*

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CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

*The Roman Martyrology for Christmas Day contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 God of \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ Light \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Light, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - al - ta - tion, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, \_\_\_\_\_



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him  
 Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb; Ve - ry \_\_\_\_\_ God, Be -  
 Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God \_\_\_\_\_  
 Je - su, to thee be \_\_\_\_\_ glor - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,



Born the King of An - gels:  
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted: O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 In \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ high - est:  
 Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Dominus dixit ad me*

PSALM 2:7, 1, 2, 8

*Dominus dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. ❧ Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati sunt inania?*

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten You this day. ❧ *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?*

## KYRIE

PASTORALEMesse, Op. 110, "CHRISTKINDLMESS", IGNAZ REIMANN

*Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison. / Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

## GLORIA

PASTORALEMESSE, OP. 110, "CHRISTKINDLMESSE", IGNAZ REIMANN

*All may be seated during the Gloria, taking their cue from the clergy and ministers in the sanctuary.*

Glória in excélsis Deo  
et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.  
Laudámus te,  
benedicimus te,  
adorámus te,  
glorificámus te,  
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam,  
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,  
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;  
qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecatióem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserére nobis.  
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dóminus,  
tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spírítu: in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-6

### GRADUAL *Tecum principium*

PSALM 110:3,1

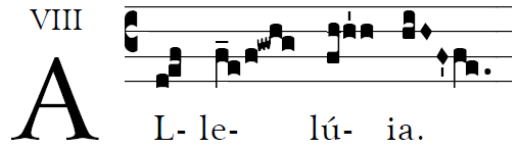
*Tecum principium in die virtútis tuæ: in splendóribus Sanctórum, ex útero ante lucíferum génui te.*

*✠ Dixit Dóminus Dómino meo: Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimicos tuos, scabéllum pedum tuórum.*

Yours is princely power in the day of Your birth, in holy splendor; before the daystar, I have begotten You.

*✠ The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool".*

## ALLELUIA



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

## GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14

## HOMILY



## CREDO (CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH)

CREDO III

*Please join in the singing of the Creed.*

V

Credo in unum De- um, Patrem omni- potén- tem, factó- rem cæ- li et terræ, vi- sibi-  
 li- um ómni- um, et invi- sibi- li- um. Et in unum Dómi- num Ie- sum Chri- stum, Fí- li- um  
 De- i unigéni- tum. Et ex Patre na- tum ante ómni- a sae- cula. De- um de De- o, lumen  
 de lúmine, De- um verum de De- o vero. Géni- tum, non fa- ctum, con- sub- stan- ti- á- lem  
 Patri: per quem ómni- a fa- cta sunt. Qui propter nos hómi- nes, et propter nos- tram sa-  
 lútem descén- dit de cæ- lis.

*All kneel while Cathedral Choir sings "Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto...et homo factus est" ("And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...and became man") from the Pastoralessa. Then stand and resume singing (next page).*



Cru- ci- fí- xus ét- i- am pro nobis sub Pón- ti- o Pi- lá- to; passus, et sepúl-  
 tus est. Et resur réxit tér- ti- a di- e, secún- dum Scrip- tú- ras. Et ascén- dit in cæ- lum, sedet  
 ad dex- te- ram Pa- tris. Et í- terum ven- tú- rus est cum glóri- a, judicá- re vivos et mórtu- os:  
 cuius regni non é- rit finis. Et in Spí- ri- tum San- ctum, Dó- minum, et vivi- ficán- tem: qui  
 ex Patre Fi- li- ó- que pro- cédit. Qui cum Patre et Fí- li- o simul adorá- tur et conglo- ri- fi-  
 cá- tur: qui locú- tus est per prophé- tas. Et unam, san- ctam, cathó- licam et apostó- licam  
 Ecclé- si- am. Con- fí- te- or unum bap- tí- sma in remis- siónem peccató- rum. Et exspéc- to  
 resur- recti- ónem mortu- ó- rum. Et vi- tam ven- tú- ri sae- cu- li. A- men.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (GENERAL INTERCESSIONS)

*After the Credo, those present pray for the needs of the Church and of the world.*

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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Page 7 of Sunday's Word*

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Laetentur caeli*

PSALM 96:11

*Laetentur caeli et exsultet terra ante faciem Domini: quoniam venit.*

*Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult before the face of the Lord, for He comes.*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us, our songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, And  
 ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; Re -  
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings flow Far  
 prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, And



heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



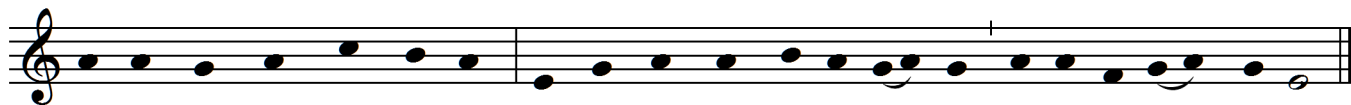
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## SANCTUS &amp; BENEDICTUS

PASTORALEMESSE, OP. 110, "CHRISTKINDLMESSE", IGNAZ REIMANN

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus: Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis. / Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

## MYSTERIUM FIDEI



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



**AGNUS DEI**

PASTORALEMmesse, Op. 110, "CHRISTKINDLMESS"e, IGNAZ REIMANN

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem. / *Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

We invite all Catholics who are properly disposed (i.e., in the state of grace and having fasted for one hour before communion) to come forward in the usual way to receive Holy Communion.

All others, including our non-Catholic guests, may remain in their pews and join us in prayer. Alternatively, to participate in the communion procession and receive a blessing, come forward in the line and cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister.

Thank you.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *In splendoribus*

PSALM 110:3

*In splendoribus sanctorum ex utero ante luciferum genui te.*

*Amidst the splendors of the heavenly sanctuary, from the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten You.*

**COMMUNION**

*(Please join in singing the Christmas carols below.)*

**AWAY IN A MANGER**

**MUELLER**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray; Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

**SILENT NIGHT**

**STILLE NACHT**

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

POSTCOMMUNION

HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

HEALEY WILLAN

Hodie Christus natus est. Noe, noe. Hodie, Salvator apparuit, Alleluia. Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli. Noe, noe. Hodie, exsultant iusti dicentes: gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia. / Today, Christ is born: Today, the Savior appeared: Today, on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today, the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia. -Magnificat antiphon, II Vespers of Christmas Day

PLEASE RESPECT OUR CUSTOM OF STAYING THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSING HYMN. THIS IS OUR CORPORATE ACT OF THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS. THANK YOU!

CLOSING

MENDELSSOHN



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er -  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild  
last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
God - head see: Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

VOLUNTARY

ORGAN FLOURISH ON "JOY TO THE WORLD"

MICHAEL DELL

## ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Cathedral of St. Paul! We hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas season and will return to worship with us often. From the very beginning of the liturgy at the entrance antiphon and in all the chant antiphons, Jesus' divine sonship is clearly the reason for this day. It seems at times that, as the introit's versicle sings, the whole world is engaged in vain struggles. It is very appropriate to view this entire liturgy through the lens of "peace on earth". The focus of this year's prelude is very much on Christmas carols: we hope you enjoy some favorites and perhaps make some new ones! Paul Sjolund's setting of "Away in a manger" was commissioned by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, but lends itself to groups of all sizes, and has a beautiful violin solo. Robert Parsons' incredibly beautiful setting of the *Ave Maria* is set for five voices: the elegant polyphony is also very intricate: each soprano entry is one step higher, perhaps portraying stairs to heaven in honor of Our Lady's Assumption. A final *Amen* is one of the most thrilling conclusions in Renaissance polyphony. The two instrumental presentations tonight are both from the Baroque, but from very different places: Bach's *Concerto in c* is derived from the same piece scored for two harpsichords. It was written prior to Bach's move to Leipzig as *cantor* at the *Thomaskirche*; rather, as *kappelmeister* at a princely court, he had the luxury of very talented instrumental collaborators—along with a boss who had relatively little need for religious music. Many of Bach's greatest chamber works date from this period. We hope you enjoy this example, here played by two violins rather than the more typical violin and oboe. Across the present-day border, we encounter the very different music of Louis-Claude Daquin. A child prodigy from a family of very learned Italian immigrants, Daquin rapidly ascended to the highest heights of French organists, becoming organist to Louis XV in 1739 and *organiste titulaire* at Notre-Dame-de-Paris in 1755. He is mostly known today for these phenomenal noëls, which neatly encapsulate much of the "French Classical" organ school of the 17th and 18th Century. Our pipe organ is especially designed for this repertoire, so enjoy this little trip to Paris! Tonight's Mass ordinary is a famous example of a genre we have not yet presented here at the Cathedral: the *Pastoralmesse*. As the German name implies, it is a style that recalls a bucolic countryside, quiet fields, and a general escape from the concerns of the city: in short, where we would've found the shepherds at the Nativity. As already noted, this mood of peace is implied in many of the liturgical texts of the Christmas Mass. Musically speaking, it means a focus on 6/8 meter, harmony in parallel thirds for the trebles, and a semi-drone theme of parallel fifths for the men that recalls bagpipes. Americans may have heard this style in Schubert's *Mass in G*, but we seldom hear this German Romantic genre otherwise in the US. The focus is on beautiful vocal lines, not on technical virtuosity: we are, in effect, helping calm the little Lord Jesus! Ignaz Reimann was born in Albendorf, Silesia (present-day Wambierzyce, Poland), a tiny town dominated by a huge Marian shrine church built in the 18th Century. Here we see Reimann writing what he knew from rural life! The *Christkindlmesse* is so known because of its ubiquity (to this day) around Christmas in German Catholic churches, most notably Cologne Cathedral. The *Kyrie* presents the initial themes of the piece, which recur in the *Credo*'s "*et incarnatus*" and in an altered, 4/4 form in the *Sanctus*, returning to pastoral 6/8 in the *Benedictus*. The *Gloria* is set in a triumphant style (recalling the announcement of the angels to the shepherds in the fields) that briefly recurs in the *Sanctus*, too. The *Agnus Dei* is rather stormy at the beginning, perhaps painting the picture of Herod's murderous designs toward Our Infant Lord. Peace returns in the form of the initial 6/8 *Kyrie* theme, though, when we hear "*dona nobis pacem/grant us peace*". Mass ends with Michael Dell's clever combination of "Joy to the world" with figuration from Mulet's "Tu es petrus". Merry Christmas!

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST OF MARKET STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(AND FORMER ASSISTANT ORGANIST OF THE CATHEDRAL)

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