

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

DECEMBER 24-25, 2023



"Adoration of the Shepherds", Agnolo Bronzino, 1539-1540

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

THE MOST REV. STEVEN J. RAICA, CELEBRANT (8:00PM & 8:30AM MASSES)

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. We are glad that you have chosen to worship God with us; 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 the Holy Mass, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice during the prelude. Please join in singing the carols below.

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.

NOËLS FOR CHRISTMAS

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

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...*

CAROL: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shineth The everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!



IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (8:00PM & 11:00AM)

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (11:00AM) *Puer natus*

CF. ISAIAH 9:5

A child is born for us, and a Son is given to us; His scepter of power rests upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

ENTRANCE HYMN (ALL MASSES)

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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:



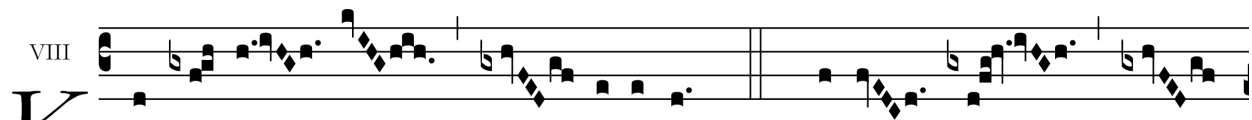
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ _____ the Lord!



KYRIE (5:00PM & 8:30AM)

MASS VIII

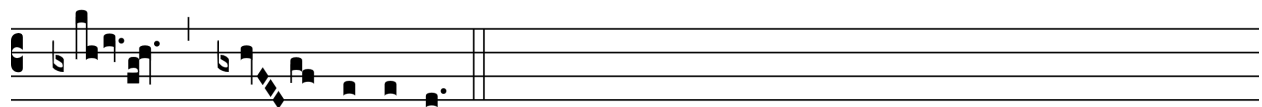
Please repeat the "Kyrie" and "Christe" phrases after the cantor; then join in the final "Kyrie".



K Y- ri- e e- lé- i-son. *ij.* Chri ste e-



lé- i-son. *ij.* Ký-ri- e e- lé- i-son. Ký-ri- e



e- lé- i-son.

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



GLORIA (ALL MASSES)

MASS VIII

V
G Ló-ri- a in excélsis Dé- o. Et in térra pax homí-nibus bónae vo-lun tá- tis.
 Lau dá- mus te. Benedí- cimus te. A do- rá- mus te. Glo- ri- fi- cámus te. Grá- ti- as á- gi-
 mus tí- bi prop ter mágnam gló- ri- am tú- am. Dómine Dé- us, Rex caeléstis, Dé- us Pá-
 ter omní- po- tens. Dómine Fí- li uni- géni- te Jé- su Chrís te. Dómine Dé- us, Agnus
 Dé- i, Fí- li- us Pá- tris. Qui tóllis peccá- ta mún- di, mi- se- ré- re nó- bis. Qui tóllis
 peccá- ta mún di, súscipe depre ca- ti- ónem nós- tram. Qui sédes ad délix te- ram Pá- tris,
 mi- se- ré- re nó- bis. Quó ni- am tu só- lus sán ctus. Tu só- lus Dómi- nus. Tu só- lus Al- tís-
 simus, Jé- su Chrí ste. Cum Sán cto Spí- ri- tu, in gló- ri- a Dé- i Pá- tris. A-
 men.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (5:00 & 8:00PM)

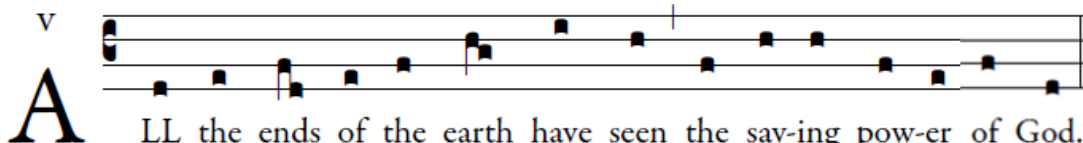
PSALM 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13



To-day, to-day, to-day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (8:30 & 11:00AM)

PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6



ALL the ends of the earth have seen the sav-ing pow-er of God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL After the proclamation of the Gospel at 8:00pm & 8:30am, please remain standing as the Bishop reverences the Book of Gospels.

HOMILY

CREED (PROFESSION OF FAITH)

All genuflect at the words "And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate..."

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (GENERAL INTERCESSIONS)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH



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 (ALL MASSES)

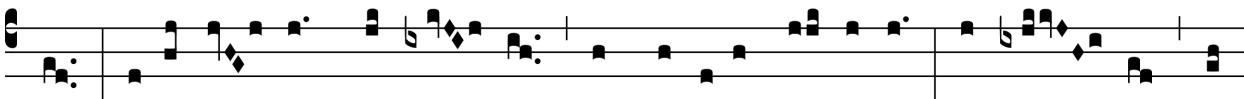
MASS VIII



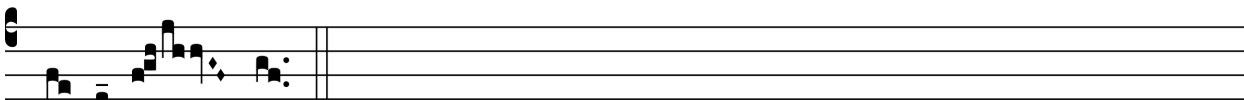
An- ctus, * San ctus, San- ctus Dó- mi- nus De- us Sá-



ba- oth. Pleni sunt cæ- li et ter- ra gló- ri- a tu- a. Ho- sán na in excél-

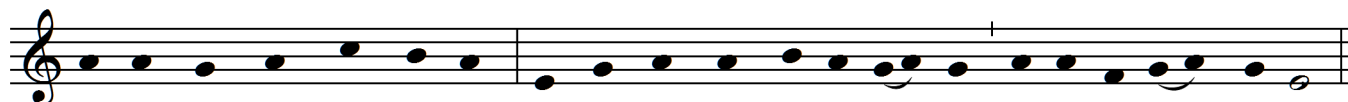


sis. Bene- dí- ctus qui ve- nit in nómine Dó- mi- ni. Ho- sán- na in



ex cél- sis.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI



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

AMEN (8:00PM & 8:30AM)



AGNUS DEI (5:00PM & 8:30AM)

MASS VIII

VI

A - gnus De- i, * qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. Agnus
De- i, * qui tol- lis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. A-gnus De- i, *
qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : dona no- bis pa- cem.

AGNUS DEI (8:00PM & 11:00AM)

MISSA OCTAVI TONI (ORLANDO DI LASSO)

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 (11:00AM) *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 (5:00PM)

O HOLY NIGHT

ADOLPHE ADAM

POSTCOMMUNION (11:00AM AD LIBITUM)

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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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



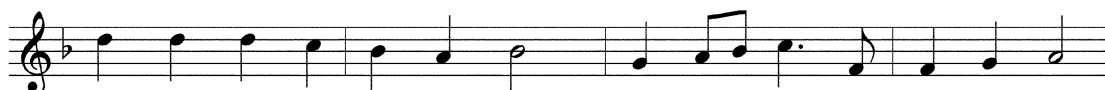
new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild
last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



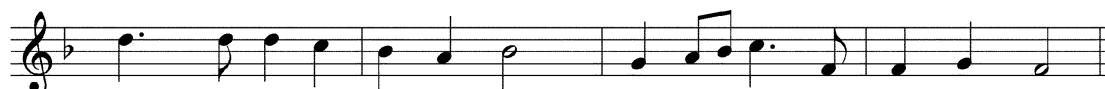
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



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.

At these Masses, our prelude is mostly carol selections: these songs are such a fine sign of the Christmas season that this is fitting. That said, there are many other Christmas ideas presented, musically speaking, today. Louis-Claude Daquin was child prodigy from a family of very learned Italian immigrants to France in the 17th Century. 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 the phenomenal noels you hear, which neatly encapsulate much of the “French Classical” organ school of the 17th and 18th Century. The Our pipe organ is especially designed for this repertoire, so enjoy this little trip to Paris!

At the 8:00pm and 11:00am Masses, we are fortunate to have a small schola, and so we offer two polyphonic movements of the Mass ordinary. Orlando di Lasso (also known by his Latinized surname, Lassus) stands as along with Palestrina, Victoria, and Byrd as the most famous of the late Renaissance polyphonists. Di Lasso was surely the greatest singer of these, to the point that there are anecdotes that he was “kidnapped for the beauty of his voice”. Not ideal! Practically speaking, we see the truth of his ability as a singer in his compositions, which inevitably have a beauty of line, but also require close attention from the singer. Very cosmopolitan, di Lasso was born in the Low Countries, but left at age 12 for Italy, where he quickly gained fame. He had already reached the highest heights of musical accomplishment at age 21 when he was appointed *maestro di capella* at St. John Lateran, the Pope’s own Cathedral. Staying in the position only a year (after which he was succeeded by someone named Palestrina), he was a bit of a rolling stone for two years after, ending up in Munich at the court of Albrecht V in 1556, who wanted to establish a court music program of the quality of his Italian peers. Di Lasso would remain there happily until his death in 1594, with various fruitful trips around Europe to further his craft and teach a new generation. An incredibly diverse composer, his 2000+ compositions serve as a living testament to his genius. His *Missa Octavi Toni* is likely his most frequently-performed liturgical piece, as the movements are quite brief and fit easily within the Mass, while retaining his core style.

Canadian composer Healey Willan’s setting of *Hodie Christus* is sung at 8pm and 11am; a festive setting with a lot of rhythmic interest, it encapsulates the joy of this day! Mass ends with Michael Dell’s clever combination of “Joy to the world” with figuration from Mulet’s “Tu es petrus”. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

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ON

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ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC; ALL ARE WELCOME!

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