



The  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
of the  
**EPIPHANY**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
December 24, 2024  
*The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 PM*

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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We are so glad you are here to celebrate this moment with us at The Church of the Epiphany. Tonight, we are here for a very special reason. It is the night we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus in a manger in a stable on a hillside in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. And yet, God is so near to us. Right here. Right now.

Please accept our very warm welcome from Epiphany to you to be fully engaged with us this night.

Be with us in this celebration. Let the musical offerings wash over you this night. Dip your finger in the font, whether you are already baptized, or just beginning to feel God's tug. Join us at God's table for Eucharist, or come for a blessing, or sit quietly in your seat. You are welcome. God is near.

Please let the clergy or staff know if there is anything we can do to support you on your journey.

Merry Christmas! From our Epiphany family, to yours.

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## WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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Whether you just stopped in to visit, or you are looking for a place of belonging, we welcome you. In our worship, formation, fellowship, and community engagement work, we strive for justice and peace and to honor the dignity of every human being. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, we are glad you are here. We believe God loves you—no exceptions!

For the latest news and events at Epiphany, visit our website at [epiphany.org](http://epiphany.org) or subscribe to our weekly newsletter. There are newcomer cards available in the pew in front of you and on the newcomer page of our website. We hope that you will fill one out while you're here and hand it to one of the clergy so we can welcome you personally.

Children of all ages are invited to participate fully in our liturgy. We welcome wiggles and giggles as signs of life and understand that sometimes children need to move about during worship. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available. Ask an usher to help you locate those near the entrance to the worship space.

If you do not have a nametag, please sign up on the clipboard on the welcome table in the Gallery. For today, there are stick-on nametags available.



We are passing the plate, but if you would prefer to virtually pass the plate today, use your phone's camera to scan this QR code. Visit [epiphany.org/ways-to-give](http://epiphany.org/ways-to-give) to learn about other ways to give to our parish or to make a pledge. You'll also find more information about Realm, our secure online community.

**Recording/Livestreaming May Be In Progress:** Liturgies and meetings at Church of the Epiphany may be live-streamed and/or recorded so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. If you prefer to sit in a location where you will be less visible to the camera, please let an usher, clergy, or staff person know.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, founded in 1898, is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop.

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**Clergy:** The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright, *Rector*; The Rev. Carmie McDonald, *Associate Rector*

**Staff:** Julie P. Ryder, *Organist & Choirmaster*; L. Shea McNutt, *Parish Administrator*; Taylor Irwin, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries and Seminarian*; Susie Boyko, *Bookkeeper*; Jason Sullivan, *Facilities Manager*; Anna Democko, *Childcare Worker*; Saffie Coker-Robinson, *Childcare Worker*

**Assisting Priests:** The Rev. Barbara Ryder, The Rev. Bobbi Patterson, The Rev. Caroline Peacock

**Wardens:** Kaylie Gibbs, *Senior Warden*; Andrea Strahan, *Junior Warden*

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# THE MUSIC AND DECORATIONS WHICH GRACE OUR WORSHIP ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND...

## *In Thanksgiving for*

Nancy Thompson, Brittany Allen and Chris, Reid and Ripley Prikkel, by Lisa Carlson & Johanna Hinman

John & Laura Keys, The Pastoral Care Committee, and Community of Hope, by David Draper

The Rev. Carmie McDonald, by Amanda & Herndon Inge

Sharon, Buddy, Graydon, and Maddie, by Richard & Sheila Ferrell

Archie T. Miller, by Ron Hutcheson & Chris Miller

Julie and all the choirs whose beautiful music makes each service more meaningful, by Terri Lawrence

Our family and friends; and Julie Ryder and the Epiphany Choir, by Rod & Michele MacLeod

Julie P. Ryder, Organist & Choirmaster, and the Epiphany Choir, by Sally E. McClintock

Linda & Steve, Julie & Terri, Rachel & Matt, Epiphany family, small group, and Ann Fowler, by Barbara Ryder

The Epiphany Choir, The Epiphany Ringers & The Hildegard Ensemble, The Epiphany Junior Choir and the  
Beginning Choristers, by Julie Ryder

Julie and all of her musical gifts, by Linda Ryder-Wolf & Steve Wolf

Julie and the Choirs' wonderful gifts, by Diane and Jackie Tate

Brittany, Chris, Reid, Ripley, Lisa, Johanna, Jessica, Will, Ella and Adalyn, by Nancy Thompson

Our grandchildren: Addy, Gwen, Margot, Billie and Keeva, by Loren & Susan Williams

## *In Memory of*

Kitty O'Shea, mother of Kathleen Rinehart, by Epiphany's Altar Guild

Vicki Bolton, by Phil Bolton

Martha Fernandez, Consuelo Solorzano Altan, Miguel Fernandez, Carlos Giron, and Joe Burns,  
by the Burns Family

Dorothy Joan Council, by George Council

Richard & Vivian Knox, Foster & Bertha Toney, and Floyd Parker, by David Draper

B.G. & Deta Ferrell, R.W. & Lillian White, and C.L. & Alberta Smith, by Richard & Sheila Ferrell

Leland Graves III and Florrie Johnson, by Bill & Pat Graves

Catherine Miller, by Ron Hutcheson & Chris Miller

Bill & Val Lawrence, by Julie Ryder & Terri Lawrence

Alice & Earl Folsom, Elaine & Clarence McCarrison, Eric Schwaab, Audrey & Neil Banfield,  
and Alex & Annie MacLeod, by Michele & Rod MacLeod

Ellery McClintock, Peggy & Dick Ehrmann, Emily White, and John Maclachlan, by Sally E. McClintock

Anne Glenn Stanton Bowling and Margaret Patterson, by Joe & Bobbi Patterson

Craig Ryder, Audrey Banfield and Shirley Sugden, by Barbara Ryder

Nancy Goodyear, Louise Sadler, Audrey Banfield, Elsie Gore, Pam Allen, and Silvia Etheridge,  
by Nancy Thompson,

Our parents: Charlie, Lois, Loren & Sarah, by Loren & Susan Williams

# SONG OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Beginning at 7:30 PM

Cantata, BWV 208

*Sheep may safely graze*

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Concerto no. 5 in F minor, BWV 1056

*Arioso*

Cantata, BWV 147

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring*

**Song of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
(1643-1704)

Prelude

Recitative

*There were in the same country Shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, an angel appeared to them, an angel of the Lord; the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. But then the angel said to them:*

Air • Kate Wierwille, soloist

*Be not afraid, ye shepherds. For behold, I bring glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For this day is born in the City of David a Savior, 'tis Christ the Lord. And this shall be the sign: you shall find the babe, lying in a manger. Hurry, hurry, ye shepherds, there adore him.*

Chorus

*Awaken, let us hasten to go unto Bethlehem. There we shall see the wonder that was told to us. Our praise to offer him, and to adore the babe who is Savior of the world to us given. Why? Why then tarry? Ye shepherds, why tarry?*

Marche

Recitative et Air • Paul DeSandre, soloist

*And when these humble shepherds arrived at the place where the child had been born, they knew the wonders told to them by the angels. They saw Mary and Joseph and the baby in a manger. Kneeling beside, they sang of their adoration in rustic but devoted songs of joy thus saying:*

Chorus

*On this day earth shall ring with the song shepherds sing, to the Lord Christ, the King, born here this day. Now let us all rejoice, with heart and soul, and voice, this gift his gracious choice, now and always. Born of a Virgin mild, spotless, and undefiled, He is the holy child come from above. Children of every race, see then the Father's face, the babe who from his grace, sent here in love.*

Orchestral Suite no. 3 in D major, BWV 1068

*Air*

J. S. Bach

## Epiphany Choir

Jewel Allen, Susan Ashmore, Edie Brush, Patrick Bryant, Shelle Bryant, Lane Burnett, George Council, Sara Cushing, Freyja DePew, Paul DeSandre, Cliff Edge, Sheila Ferrell, Beth Floyd, Joe Follman, Rebecca Follman, Laura Gary, Bill Graves, Pat Graves, Brent Henderson, Paige Howell, Ron Hutcheson, Alix Janke, Brenda Lloyd, Dan Mundy, Keith Poole, Rosie Reily, Mary Ann Schneider, Nick Theyerl, Marjorie Timmer, James Weigle, Kate Wierwille, John Yntema

## Instrumentalists

Alvin Blount, organ • Jennifer Derringer, violin • Rebecca Follman, flute  
Peter Hildebrandt, cello • Lauren Jenkins, violin • Katherine Jenkins, viola

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Introit—Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

Epiphany Choir

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae et concepit de Spiritu Sancto. Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus. Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

*(The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners. Holy Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.)*

Processional Hymn—O come, all ye faithful

Adeste Fideles

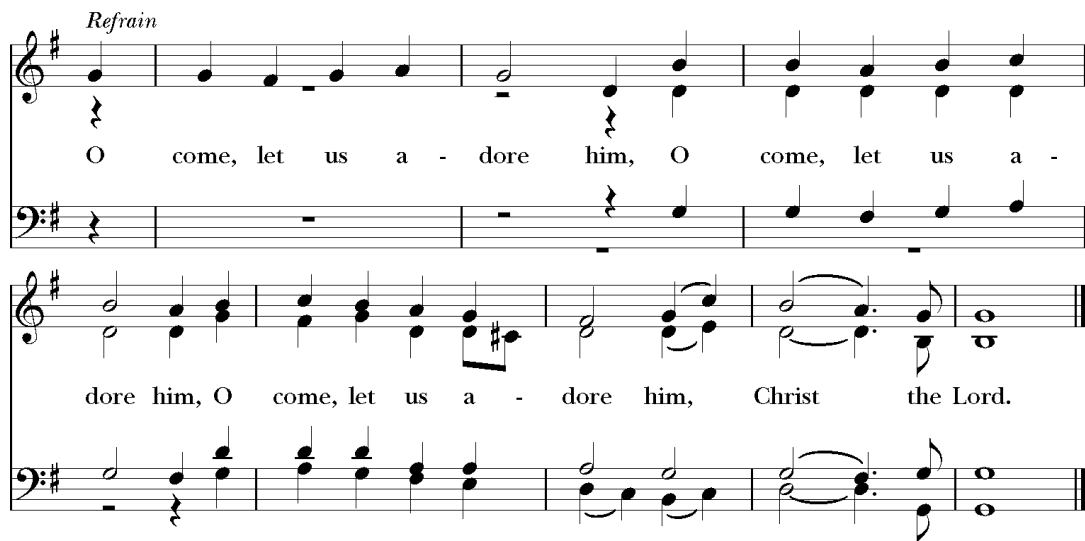
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Continued on next page

*Refrain*



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

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

### Opening Acclamation

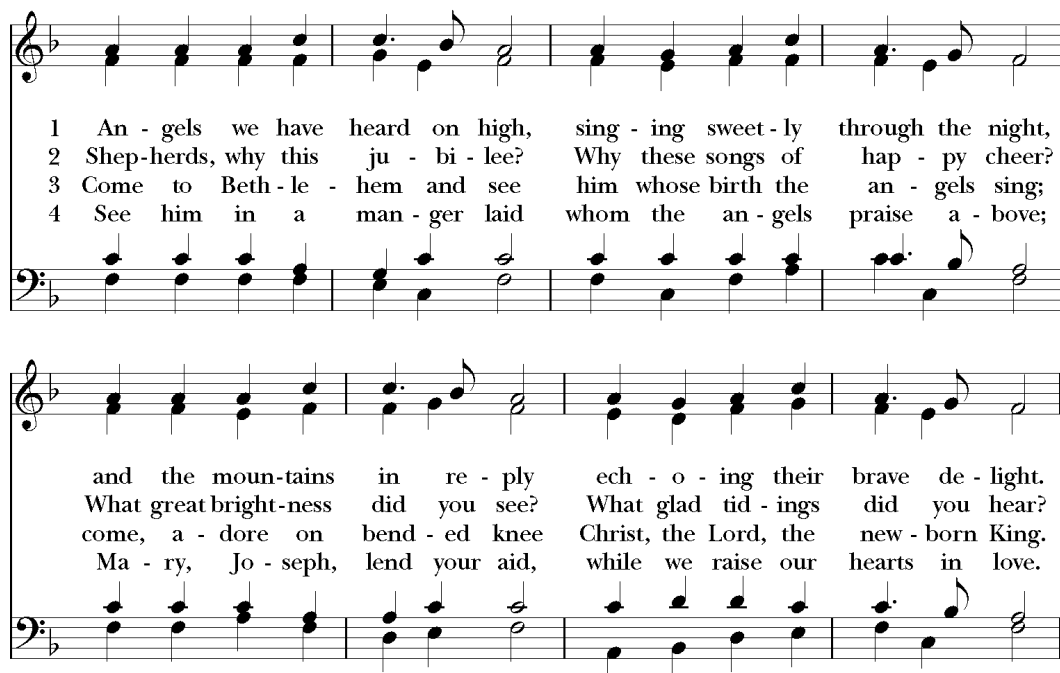
*Celebrant* Blessed be the one holy and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Hymn of Praise—Angels we have heard on high

*Gloria*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

### The Collect for The Nativity of Our Lord

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
 \* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung,  
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

## The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven 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 heaven, and heaven 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.

## The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Gospeller*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Carmie McDonald

*A period of silence is kept*

### **The Prayers of the People for Christmas—*The People stand***

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who in coming to dwell among us has revealed the radiance of God’s glory and brought us into marvelous light. Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love, and fill it with the Spirit of truth. Guide and inspire your faithful people throughout the world: especially Sean our Presiding Bishop and Rob our bishop. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness. We pray especially for Joseph our President, Brian our Governor, and Andre our Mayor. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting father, eternal mother, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities. Be the strength among the people of this parish as we seek to live our core values of faith, integrity, inclusiveness, compassion, social justice, and stewardship. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to those who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant’s concluding Collect*

Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, life of the world; hear our prayer. May we, who like the shepherds have seen in your birth a new kind of love, witness to that love in our lives. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant*    The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

### **The Welcome**

Offertory Anthem—Go, tell it on the mountain

John Abenour

Epiphany Choir

Go, tell it on the mountain, over hill and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain the Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Presentation Hymn—Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

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!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B, Expansive Language**

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord S 125**

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember Christ's death,  
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer**—*traditional language*

**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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem** —From heaven above to earth I come

*Vom Himmel hoch*

*The Choir and People sing*



1 From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good  
2 to you this night is born a child of Ma - ry,  
3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your  
4 The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds



news to ev - ery - one! Glad tid - ings of great  
chos - en vir - gin mild; this new - born child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your  
in his in - fant hand, that in his king - dom



joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sa - vior be and from all sin will set you free.  
bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

## The Communion of the People

All God's people are welcome to share in the Holy Eucharist. Communion is received either kneeling or standing at the altar rail or at the standing station on the floor level. At the altar rail you have the option to drink from the chalice, to hand your wafer to the Lay Eucharistic Minister to intinct for you, or to cross your arms after you receive the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice. At the floor station, communion is received by intinction by the Priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, cross your hands across your chest; the priest will bless you. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

### Communion Motet—Sure on this shining night

Morten Lauridsen

Epiphany Choir

Sure on this shining night of starmade shadows round, kindness must watch for me this side the ground. The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole. Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wandering far alone of shadows on the stars.

### Communion Hymn—A stable lamp is lighted

Andújar

1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose  
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall  
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And  
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The

glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,  
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,  
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,  
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,

And ev - ery stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,  
 And ev - every stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,  
 And ev - every stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,  
 And ev - every stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,

And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,  
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way,  
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,  
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us

A stall be - come a shrine. 2 This  
 To pave his king - dom come. 3 Yet  
 God's love re - fused a - gain. 4 But  
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

### Postcommunion Prayer—Celebrant and People

Let us pray

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Candles will be lit from the center aisle, then individuals light their neighbor's candle.*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

### The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Holy and undivided Trinity be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and  
 ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that  
 Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their  
 2 The shep - herds feared and  
 3 Down in a low - ly  
 watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
 trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
 man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and  
*Repeat Refrain*  
 hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary**—Ciacona in C major, BUXWV 137

Dietrich Buxtehude  
 (1637-1707)