



The Nativity, Sandro Botticelli (1444-1510) Columbus Museum of Art

Organ Voluntaries and Congregational Carols

Procession to the Crèche

The First Mass of Christmas

Church of the Ascension, Chicago + December 24, 2023



*Please silence all electronic devices that may distract you or others from worship.
Cameras in the church are for the purposes of live-streaming and/or recording our
liturgies and music, but anyone in the church may be incidentally viewed.*



10:30 p.m.
**A PRELUDE of ORGAN VOLUNTARIES &
CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS**

Organ

Der Tag der ist so freudenreich BWV 605

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

La Nativité [1935 ver.]

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

The Crèche; The Angels; The Shepherds; The Holy Family

Congregational Carols

Hymn 89 “It came upon a midnight clear”

(descant: D. White)

Hymn 81 “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”

(descant: D. White)

Please stand as able.

The Carols are located in the blue Hymnal 1982, found in the pew rack.

Organ

Es ist ein Ros’ Entsprungen, op. 122, no. 8

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Congregational Carols

Hymn 93 "Angels, from the realms of glory"

The Sussex Carol



1. On Christ-mas night all Christ-ians sing to hear the news the ang-els bring; On
2. Then why on earth should we be sad, since our Re-dee - mer made us glad? Then
3. When sin de-parts be - fore_ His grace, then life and health come in its place; when
4. All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the ang - els sing this night; all



Christ-mas night all Christ-ians sing to hear the news the ang-els bring; news of great
why on earth should we be sad, since our Re-dee - mer made us glad, when from our
sin de-parts be - fore_ His grace, then life and health come in its place; an - gels and
out of dark - ness we have light, which made the ang - els sing this night: "Glo - ry to



joy, news of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
sin_ He set us free, all for to gain our li - ber - ty?
we with joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.
God in high - est heav'n, now and for - e - ver - more. A - men!

Ending, final verse only



Now and for - e - ver - more. A - men!"

Organ

Variations on *Puer nobis nascitur*
Partita on *Il est né, le divin Enfant*

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)
David R. White (b. 1959)





DEVS IKOIN TORIV NEV ITEN OE OIE KOKOIWANTOV ME

THE ENTRANCE RITE

All stand as the bell signals the entrance of the Ministers of the assembly.

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

A Minister sings the traditional account of the birth of Jesus.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;

Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt;

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Following the Proclamation, the Deacon chants

Let us go forth in peace.

People

In the name of Christ. A - men.

In Procession to the Christmas Crèche: Hymn 83 vss. 1-4 ADESTE FIDELES

descant by Sir David Willcocks

The Blessing of the Christmas Crèche

Celebrant Alleluia, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

People **And we beheld his glory. Allelu -ia.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who on this most holy night caused your only begotten Son to be born of the blessed and glorious ever virgin Mary for our salvation: Be pleased to hallow and bless this Crib of Christmas wherein are shown forth the wonders of that sacred birth, that all those, who beholding the same, shall ponder and adore the mystery of his holy incarnation, may be filled with your heavenly benediction unto eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The hymn continues: Hymn 83 vss. 5-6

ADESTE FIDELES

Introit “Dominus dixit” (Ps. 2) Mode II

Dominus dixit ad me: filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. Ps. Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati sunt inania? V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

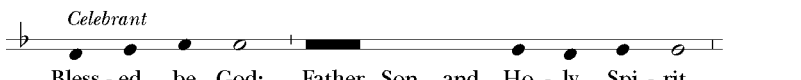
Dominus ...

The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ps. Why do the nations so furiously rage together? V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.

Amen. The Lord ...

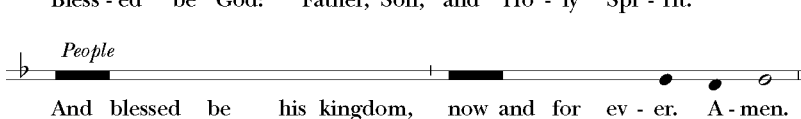
The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant



Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant may say

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.**

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo; et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratiam agimus
tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui
tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

*We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for
thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us

*For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Setting: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) *Missa brevis* in F, Hob. XXII: 1

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

The People are seated.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual “Tecum principium” (Ps. 110) Mode II

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae: in splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero ante luciferum genui te. V. Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

Sovereign strength is thine on the day of thy great might. Amidst the splendors of the heavenly sanctuary, from the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten thee. V. The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.

The Epistle

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.

Sub-deacon The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

When the Gospel procession moves towards the pews, the People stand.

Alleluia “Dominus dixit” (Ps. 2) Mode VIII

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Dominus dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.
Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The People are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre

The Nicene Creed *The People stand as able.*

CREDO in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium.

I BELIEVE in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, Lumen de Lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri; per quem omnia facta sunt.

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.

Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est.

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.

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est, et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas, et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, iudicare vivos et mortuos, cuius regni non erit finis.

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.

Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem, qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur: qui locutus est per prophetas.

Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam.

And I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

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.

Setting: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Missa brevis in F, Hob. XXII: 1

Prayers of the People

Form VI (BCP p. 392)

The Leader and People pray responsively
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Paula our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory “Laetentur coeli” Mode IV

Laetentur coeli, et exsultet terra ante faciem Domini: quoniam venit.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the Lord: for he is come.

Offertory Motet

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. By him all things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, he has not made. All things were made by Him.

Setting: Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962) *The Word Was God* (1996)

Text: John 1:1-3, from the readings for Christmas Day

Offertory Hymn 87

MENDELSSOHN

descant by Sir David Willcocks

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP p. 367)

Orate Fratres

Celebrant Pray, beloved, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable
to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise
and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his
holy Church.**

Celebrant Amen.

Sursum corda

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli 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 thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Setting: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) *Missa brevis* in F, Hob. XXII: 1

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant

There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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

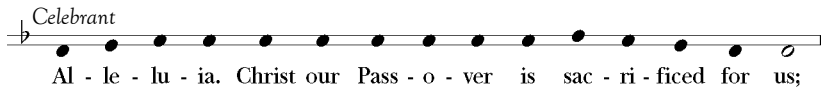
Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

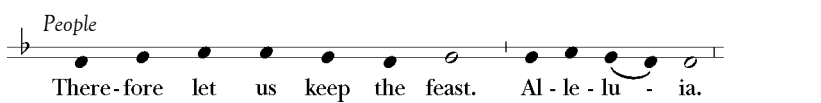
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People



There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.

People **But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

† *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion, and all may come forward.*

Those who are not baptized or who do not wish to receive may indicate a desire for a blessing by crossing arms on the chest upon approaching the priest. If you prefer not to receive the Chalice, please cross your arms on your chest and remain until the minister has said the words of reception, "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." If you require a gluten-free host, put your right hand over your heart.

- *Please alert an usher if you need the Sacrament brought to you in the pew.*

Agnus Dei

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.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.

Setting: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) *Missa brevis* in F, Hob. XXII: 1

THE COMMUNION

Communion "In splendoribus" (Ps. 110) Mode VI

In splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero ante luciferum genui te. V. Gloria Patri.

With an holy worship: the dew of thy Birth is of the womb of the morning. V. Glory be.

Communion Motet

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.

Refrain:

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini.
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Et Verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

*The angel of God visited Mary
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

Refrain:

*Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Mary said: See the servant of the Lord.
May it happen to me according to your word.*

*And the Word became flesh
and lived among us.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Holy Mary, pray for us now and in the hour of our death.
Amen.*

Setting: Franz Biebl (1906-2001) *Ave Maria* (1964)

Communion Hymns

Hymn 78

FOREST GREEN

Hymn 111

STILLE NACHT

descant by David White

After Communion the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

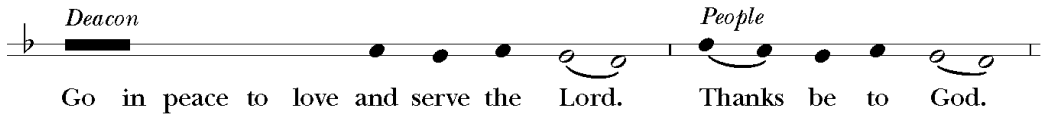
And the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The People stand as they are able.

The Dismissal

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**



Closing Hymn 96

GLORIA

descant by David White

ORGAN

Symphonie pour Orgue, op. 42, no.1

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

V. Toccata

Please join us for a festive reception in Wheeler Hall following the Mass.

2023 Advent Greens & Christmas Flower Donations

In memory of Betty and Weldon Reeves, Ricky Reeves, Dan Reeves, Michael Berkshire,
Jim Berger, John Mulcare, Bill Flodin
By David Reeves

In memory of Theodore D. Saunders, Jr., Samuel H. Rollé, Jr.
By Laverne Rollé Saunders

In memory of James M. Berger, M.E. & Anna Mae Drury, Jane Drury,
John Mulcare, William Flodin, Robert Coale, Thomas Prince, Ph.D., Edward F.X. Hughes, MD
By James Drury

In memory of Dr. C. Jeriel (Jay) Howard
By Richard Francis Tracz

In memory of Charlene Gehm MacDougal
By Gary MacDougal

In memory of Gary P. Fertig (*Priest*), Kurt A. Olson, (*Priest*), James H. Dunkerley, (*Priest*),
Louise Kellogg White, Robert A. White, Robert West
By David White & John West

In memory and in thanksgiving for
Anthony Couchman (*Priest*), Dolores Baran, Fred Baran, Roy Robertson,
Mary Jane Robertson, Sandra Robertson, Mike Lazos, Linda Packard (*Priest*)
By James & David Baran-Robertson

In memory of James Dunkerley (*Priest*), Kenzaburo Oë, Ryuichi Sakamoto,
all the people killed in Gaza
By Kuni Sakai

In thanksgiving for our family and friends
By Jay & Cheryl Peterson

In memory of Doris Williams, Vincent Hector, other families and friends
By Avril & Lynette Hector

In honor of All Ascension Alumni
By Edward Minieka

In thanksgiving
By Robert Petite and Mark Tabbut

In memory of Leroy & Augusta Woods, Louise, Curly, Doris, LuVell, Teresa,
Nelson, Robert, Bobby, Earmy and James
By Ruby Woods

In memory of Bernard & Mary Schram, Thaddeus & Cecelia Kowalski,
Wanda Dole, Karen Noe, James H. Dunkerley (*Priest*)
By Timothy & Mary Jane Kowalski

In honor of Joie & Seni, our beautiful granddaughters
In memory of Our Parents, Marvin Files, Chuck Kelley
By DiAnne and Jim Walsh

In memory, thanksgiving and honor of Yousef Ha Siddique, Mitron-Sarapanim,
Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Shem Ha Meforash, John Glanman, Ashraf Khan
By Sara Reece Glanman, Reece Alexander Conrad-Glanman, Reece Zulqurnayn Glanman

In thanksgiving for Ms. Lisa Weeks
By Jeffrey A Garcia

In memory of all victims of war in 2023
By Fr. Gary E. A. Lawler

In memory of Robert (Bob) Susman, Sarah Susman, Matt & Angeline Susman,
Mae & Dwight Johnson, Harold & Constance Clark, Bobby Faber
By Barbara A. Susman

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE The Rt. Rev. Daniel Martins, *Celebrant*;
The Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill, *Deacon*; The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, *Preacher*;
Patrick Johnston, MB Hwang, Enrique Vilaseco, David A. Robertson, Victoria Dvonch, *Acolytes*;
Joshua Simpson, *Lector*; Gary Alexander, Andrew Smith, *Technology*;
David Reeves, Roberta Dawson, *Ushers*

THE CHOIR OF THE ASCENSION

Soprano Carlyne DalMonte, Alexandra Olsavsky, Alexia Rivera, Tiana Sorenson

Alto Miya Higashiyama, Amy Johnson, Cassidy Smith

Tenor Damon Cole, James Judd, Aaron Short

Bass Matthew Brennan, Ian Morris, Ian Prichard, Peter Wesoloski

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Lord's Prayer (S119); Plainsong; adapt. C. Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) © 1985, Church Publishing, Inc.; **Sursum Corda** (S120); **Memorial Acclamation** (S 136); **Alleluia Christ our Passover** (S152); © 1985 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-717617.



Please do remember your financial offerings to the church. At this time, they may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also write a check and mail it to the church or make a gift by scanning this QR Code.

**Christmas Day,
December 25**
10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 12 p.m.
St. Stephen

Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist

Thursday, Dec. 28 at 12 p.m.
The Holy Innocents

Sunday, December 31
First Sunday after Christmas Day
9 a.m. Sung Mass; 11 a.m. High Mass

Monday, January 1 at 7 p.m.
The Most Holy Name of Our Lord
Jesus Christ

Saturday, January 6 at 11 a.m.
The Epiphany

Sunday, January 7
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
9 a.m. Sung Mass; 11 a.m. High Mass

The Church of the Ascension
1133 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610
312.664.1271
office@ascensionchicago.org
www.ascensionchicago.org

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, Bishop of Chicago
The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, Rector
(cdelatorre@ascensionchicago.org)
The Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill, Curate
(mmurphygill@ascensionchicago.org)
The Rev. Charles F. Farrell, Deacon Associate

Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Gary Lawler
The Rev. Dr. Robert Petite
The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

Benjamin Rivera, Choirmaster
(brivera@ascensionchicago.org)

David White, Organist
(benbritten@yahoo.com)
David Schrader, Organist Emeritus

LaVerne Rollé Saunders
(SeniorWarden@AscensionChicago.org)
David Reeves
(JuniorWarden@AscensionChicago.org)

Ian Barillas-McEntee, Jim Lo Bello,
Ken Cozette, Marlea Edinger, Sean Hansen,
David A. Robertson, Elizabeth Simpson,
Joshua Simpson, Sam Sommers (Clerk), Vestry
Gary Alexander, Communications and Technology
MB Hwang, Verger
George Panice, Facilities Manager
(gpanice@gmail.com)
Nathanael Deward Rahm BSG, Parish Office
(office@ascensionchicago.org)



Welcome to worship at the
Church of the Ascension
An Anglican-Episcopal parish in the
city and Diocese of Chicago

SOME WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY may have traveled from afar and visited before. Church of the Ascension has long been a destination for those who feel blessed by the Anglo-Catholic worship here. Others may have made a shorter trip, and those here for the first time may ask, "What's *Anglo-Catholic*?" The term refers to two aspects of our history and ongoing faith and worship.

Anglican churches are those in the tradition of, and with ongoing ties to, the Church of England. (In the United States we are mainly called Episcopalians.)

The '*Catholic*' part of our identity is evident all around us here, in the church interior and in our worship.

- + We value and relish liturgy and music that engage and nourish the heart the mind and all the senses.
- + Our reverence for the sacrament of the Eucharist, the Mass, Christ's Body and Blood, is emphasized by the architecture of the space and many elements of our worship.
- + We have a strong sense of taking part, as Christ's people, in the Communion of Saints, including Blessed Mary and our patron saint, Michael the Archangel. Our faith is inspired and sustained by remembering the lives and witness of those who are now eternally with God.

We hope and pray that our sense of grateful, divine fellowship translates to our welcome of all and to faithfulness in the ministries that we share beyond our life of worship.

Your questions about our parish community, our worship and other ministries may be found by inquiring with our clergy or parishioners, or on our website – www.ascensionchicago.org.

Thank you and bless you for joining us.



The mosaic on the door of the altar tabernacle, Church of the Ascension

- **All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Communion.** Others are welcomed to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing.
- **Please join us for Coffee Hour in Wheeler Hall** after the Mass.
- **If you are a visitor**, please consider completing one of the blue visitor cards found in the pews.
- **Live-Streaming** of select liturgies is available on Facebook and YouTube. Links for these can be found on our website Home page.
- **Please ask an usher about a parking permit** if your car will be in our parking lot after 1:30 pm today.

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