The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

FIFTH AVENUE AT TENTH STREET



First Sunday After Christmas

The Holy Name of Our Lord

January 1,2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST
With Lessons and Carols

Eleven O'Clock A.M.

THE FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude **Greensleeves**
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
arr. Stanley Roper

Bidding Prayer *(all stand)*

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen*.

Hymn 93 ***Regent Square***

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray. Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, `You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, `You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid

myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life. (3:1-15; 22-24)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 105 *(all stand)* ***God Rest Ye Merry***

A Reading from the Book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." (6:22-27)

Hymn 91 *(all stand)* ***Ermuntre dich***

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. (7:10-14)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 99 *(all stand)* ***Go Tell it on the Mountain***

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be

with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (1:26-38)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 81 *(all stand)* ***Es ist ein Ros***

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

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. (2: 1-7)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 101 *(all stand)* ***Cradle Song***

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

Now in that same 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, and 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, just as it had been told them. When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (2:8-21)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 89 *(all stand)* ***Carol***

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (2:5-11)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 82 *(all stand)* ***Divinum mysterium***

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (1:1-18)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People *Amen.*

The Peace

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

Announcements

Offertory Solo **Schlafendes Jesuskind**
(The Sleeping Christ-Child)
Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Sohn der Jungfrau, Himmelskind! am Boden,
Auf dem Holz der Schmerzen eingeschlafen,
Das der fromme Meister, sinnvoll spielend,
Deinen leichten Träumen unterlegte;
Blume du, noch in der Knospe dämmernd
Eingehüllt die Herrlichkeit des Vaters!
O wer sehen könnte, welche Bilder
Hinter dieser Stirne, diesen schwarzen
Wimpern sich in sanftem Wechsel malen!

Son of the Virgin, Heavenly Child!
Asleep on the ground, on the wood of suffering,
Which the pious painter, in meaningful play,
Has laid beneath Thy gentle dreams;
O flower, still the Glory of God the Father!
Though still hidden in the dark bud!
Ah, if one could see what pictures,
Behind this brow and these dark
Lashes, are reflected in gentle succession!

The Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer B**

(The people stand while the offerings are presented)

Sursum corda **Hymnal, S-120**

Celebrant The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.*
Celebrant 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 **Hymnal, S-129**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
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.

(The people stand or kneel, and the priest 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."

Memorial Acclamation **Hymnal, S-137**

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People *We remember his death,*
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in Glory.

(The priest continues)

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 Mary the God-Bearer, St. Joseph, and 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.

People *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

All 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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Communion of the People

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

(The people come forward to the altar rail as directed by the ushers. All are welcome.)

Hymn 336 *(all stand)* ***Werde munter***

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

(Said together by all)

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.

Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

Hymn 100 *(all stand)* ***Joy to the World***

Dismissal

(The congregation is dismissed, and the people respond)

Thanks be to God.

Postlude **Premíer Noël - Á la venue de Noël**
Nicolas-Antoine Lebègue (1631-1702)

WELCOME to the Church of the Ascension. We're glad to have you worship with us, and hope that you have experienced the peace and presence of Christ in this place. If you'd like to learn more about our parish, please fill out the card in your pew and give it to an usher or put it in the offering plate.

Announcements

Our guest soloist today is Jason Eck, bass-baritone.
Our guest organist for today is Gregory D'Agostino.

Office Closed- The church and parish office will be closed on January 2.

Have you made your pledge for 2023? Thanks to all who have pledged to support Ascension in the coming year. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so. We need everyone's participation, and depend on your commitments for our budget planning. Thank you for your generosity and care for our church!

To make or pay your pledge online, please check us out at Ascensionnyc.org/Give to find out how easy and secure it is to give. You can also download the Abundant app for iOS or Android. When donating, please choose whichever purpose you intend for your contribution.

Help Us Repair & Restore our Tower Brownstone - Ascension is making urgently needed repairs and restoration on the historic masonry & copings of our tower brownstone. We have received a generous matching grant from the Manton Foundation for this important work. Now we need your help make our space secure for the next generation!

Every dollar you give will be matched up to $200,000. You can pledge to this campaign online at ascensionnyc.org/matchinggrant, or contact the parish office at 212-254-8620. Payments can be made by check payable to the Church of the Ascension (remember to put "Tower Brownstone" in the memo line) or online through Abundant (Ascensionnyc.org/Give – select "Manton Matching Grant" from the drop-down menu). If you have any questions about this campaign or the tower, please speak to Mother Liz or one of the Wardens. Thank you for your generosity!

New York Episcopal Credit Union- Our credit union has received its charter and plans to be open for business in 2023! During the first year of its operation, the Credit Union will offer basic saving and lending services to its customers, which may include anyone connected with a parish, outreach ministry, school or charitable organization of the Diocese of New York. If you would like to make a gift of start up capital to help with initial salaries and expenses for this new venture you may make a pledge by emailing: UncommonCommittment@gmail.com

Help for Asylum Seekers Needed- Our friends at Judson Church (239 Thompson St.) have created a respite and mutual aid center for asylum seekers who have been bussed to New York from Texas. They are open every Monday from 10 am to 7 pm. You can help by volunteering time (Spanish speakers and those with medical, legal or social work training especially welcome), or by donating supplies. They need new (or like new) winter coats (men's, women's, & children's), underwear (boxers preferably), and backpacks.

To learn more about volunteering, please contact the Rev. Micah Bucey at micah@judson.org. Donated supplies can be brought to Ascension, marked "mutual aid for migrants" and we will see that they get to Judson. Thank you!

Mask Policy –With the rise of respiratory illnesses, we do strongly encourage everyone to be masked when indoors and to be sensitive to the concerns of others. Clergy, servers, and choir will remain masked during services.

Rota for January 1, 2023

9:00 a.m.	
Server	June Fait
11:00 a.m.	
Altar Guild	TBD
Ushers	TBD
Lectors	Isabel Spencer, Stanley Weinberg, Sabra Brock, John Merryman, Richard Mitchell, Peter Nordeen, Sibyl Piccone, Maurice Seaton
Server	Tom Rice
Thurifer	John Grimes
Crucifer	TBD
Torches	Candace Lombardi, Richard Mitchell
Chalice Bearers	Stanley Weinberg, David Lehmann
Counter	Tom Rice

Rota for January 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.	
Server	Rachel Sedor
11:00 a.m.	
Altar Guild	TBD
Ushers	TBD
Lectors	James Amodeo, Barbara Matovu
Intercessor	Vin Knight
Server	Elizabeth Adams
Crucifer	James Amodeo
Torches	Rusty Moore, John Grimes
Chalice Bearers	Janet Fisher, David Lehmann
Counter	Elizabeth Adams

Parish Activities

Sunday – January 1 – The Holy Name of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist (Church) 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist w/ Music; (Church & Live Stream) 11:00 a.m.
Lessons and Carols
In person and online (Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday)
Join us for Coffee Hour following the Service
Meditation & Sacrament (Church) 6:00 p.m.

Monday – January 2
Church and Parish Office closed. There are no services of meetings.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday – January 3
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.
Finance Meeting (Zoom) 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday – January 4
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist (Church) 6:00 p.m.
Needlecraft Guild (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.
Building & Grounds (Zoom) 6:45 p.m.

Thursday – January 5
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Ascension Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall/Church) 4:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Friday – January 6
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Saturday – January 7
Food Pantry (12 W 11th St.) 8:30 a.m.
Food pantry is available the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. For assistance or to volunteer, please contact Amy Shaw at amyqshaw@gmail.com.

Sunday – January 8 – The Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist (Church) 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist w/ Music; (Church & Live Stream) 11:00 a.m.
In person and online (Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday)
Join us for Coffee Hour following the Service
Meditation & Sacrament (Church) 6:00 p.m.

The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street

Incorporated October 1, 1827

Parish House 12 West 11th Street, New York, New York 10011

www.ascensionnyc.org (212) 254-8620 info@ascensionnyc.org

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist w/ Music, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Online Church, 11:00 a.m. (Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday)
Sunday Meditation & Sacrament, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.
Weeknight Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. (ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer)

Clergy & Staff	***Vestry***
The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell, *Rector*	David Cholcher, *Warden*
The Rev. Edwin Chinery, *Associate Rector*	Isabel Spencer, *Warden*
The Rev. Posey Krakowsky, *Priest Associate*	Mary Gaillard, *Treasurer*
Charles E. Schmidt, *Chancellor*	Mary Gossy: *Clerk*
Dennis Keene, D.M.A., *Organist & Choirmaster*	Elizabeth Adams
Andrew P. Jones, *Parish Administrator*	Kyle Church Cheseborough
Kelli Long, *Business Manager*	Peter Clark
Sajia Choudhury, *Parish Bookkeeper*	John Grimes
Dwight Roberts, *Sexton*	Steve Hubbard
William Gordon, *Assistant Sexton*	Vin Knight
Rashean Thompkins, *Assistant Sexton*	Gale Lynch
	Tom Rice
	Rachel Sedor
	Madonna Stack-Barker
	John Thompson
	Jill Tildesley

@ascensionnyc

Paperless Bulletin

Hymn 93 ***Regent Square***

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
Refrain

Angels, from the realms of glory, #93 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

Hymn 105 ***God Rest Ye Merry***

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.

Refrain

"Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might."
Refrain

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.
Refrain

God rest you merry, gentlemen, #105 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

Hymn 91 ***Ermuntre dich***

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, greet that glorious sight,
our Lord a crib adorning.
This child, this little helpless boy,
shall be our confidence and joy,
the power of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, #91 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Johann Rist (1607-1667); ver. Hymnal 1982. Music: Ermuntre dich, melody Johann Schop (d. 1665?), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Hymn 81 ***Es ist ein Ros***

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, #81 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859): tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Es ist ein Ros, melody from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

Hymn 101 ***Cradle Song***

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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 side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, #101 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Traditional carol. Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Hymn 89 ***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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets 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 all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

It came upon the midnight clear, #89 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

Hymn 82 ***Divinum mysterium***

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Of the Father's love begotten, #82 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

Hymn 336 ***Werde munter***

Come with us, O blessèd Jesus,
with us evermore to be;
and though leaving now thine altar,
let us nevermore leave thee.
Be thou one with us for ever,
in our life thy love divine
our own flesh and blood has taken,
and to us thou givest thine.

Come with us, O mighty Savior,
God from God, and Light from Light;
thou art God, thy glory veiling,
so that we may bear the sight.

Now we go to seek and serve thee,
through our work as through our prayer;
grant us light to see and know thee,
in thy people everywhere.

Come with us, O King of glory,
by angelic voices praised;
in our hearts as in thy heaven,
be enraptured anthems raised.
Let the mighty chorus ever
sing its glad exultant songs;
let its hymn be heard for ever—
peace for which creation longs.

Come with us, O blessèd Jesus, #336 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1861-1945) and Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Sts. 2-3, Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: Werde munter, Johann Schop (d. 1665?); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Hymn 100 ***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come, #100 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).