

The LITURGY of MORNING PRAYER & HOLY COMMUNION on

the 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS and the Feast of the HOLY INNOCENTS, 2025 A.D.

Church! The liturgy is entirely contained within this booklet. In general, we stand (*) to sing, sit to listen, and kneel (†) to pray. **Boldface** indicates congregational participation. At Holy Communion, all baptized Christians who love our Divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in sincerity and are living in peace and charity with their neighbors are invited to receive the Eucharist. Further instructions on how to receive Holy Communion or a blessing can be found beginning on page 24.

The Liturgy begins at 10am, ending around 11:25am, at which point the adults will enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments, while the children and teens go immediately to their Catechesis classes. Around 11:45pm, adult catechesis will begin. Lunch will be provided following Catechesis. May God bless you on this Lord's Day!

Out of Nazareth

Music: Bach, Cantata 140 (Chorale) Zion hears the watchman singing Handel, from 'Messiah' For unto us a Child is born

And Nathanael said unto him, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip saith unto him, "Come and see." (John 1:46)

No one cared about Nazareth. It was a backwater town of 300 poor farmers and sheep herders—a town overlooked by anyone of stature, and unmentioned in the Old Testament.

"Why couldn't Messiah come from somewhere noble? Wouldn't Jerusalem, God's jeweled crown and center of wisdom and learning, be the better choice?" Nathanael was falling victim to his own expectations, thinking there was no way God would choose such a forsaken place for the coming of the Messiah.

...Think of what you were when you were called.

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise... (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)

When you think about it, this is exactly how God has always worked. He does the unpredictable. He redeems the rejected. In His wisdom He deigned Jesus to be born in a manger rather than a palace; born in a backwater village rather than a city of influence; born to an unmarried teenage virgin rather than someone of religious importance and social status.

Why? Was this another way God chose to identify with us? Not many of us were born into a family of influence, or nobility, or distinction. For most of us the only people who celebrated our birth were our parents and family, a few friends, and sometimes not even those.

Scripture tells us our beginnings are not as important as our endings; where we begin has little or no bearing on where we are going—what counts is the journey we are willing to undertake, with all of its pitfalls and hardships, when all our life's circumstances stand in the way. God, in history, has used the lowly such as these to confound the wise.

Jesus—the Son of God, the Prince of Heaven—lowered Himself and abandoned His eternal sovereignty in order to raise us up, just the reverse of what the world would prefer. Indeed, something wonderful, perhaps the most wonderful event in the history of the world, happened in Nazareth! In this we take heart. Regardless of the social or societal origins of our birth, we all inherited a common ancestry: the lowly Eden-caused curse of a 'needy nazareth'. The journey from our lowly 'Nazareth' to our high 'Jerusalem'—the calling of faith— may be arduous, but Jesus walked that path and encourages us to follow.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4–5)

-Greg Athnos



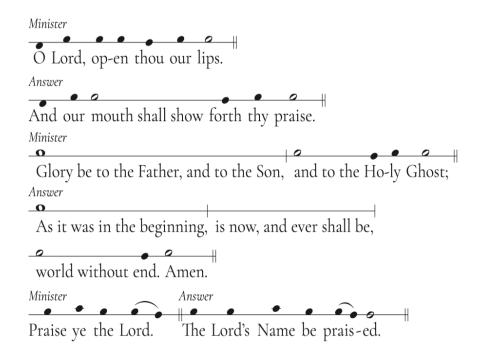
Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. John Mason Neale Tune: German melody, 14th century; arr. Winfred Douglas, 1918 IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5

THE ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER

*Opening Sentence

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. St. Luke ii. 10, 11

*Preces



* Venite



- 1 O come, let us sing | unto · the LORD;
 - * let us heartily rejoice in the strength of | our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with | thanksgiving;* and show ourselves | glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a | great God;
 - * and a great | King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners | of the earth;
 - * and the strength of the hills is | his also.
- 5 The sea is | his, and · he made it;
 - * and his hands prepared the dry land.
- 6 O come, let us worship and | fall down,
 - * and kneel before the | LORD our **Ma**ker.
- 7 For he is the | Lord our God;
 - * and we are the people of his pasture, and the | sheep of his hand.
- 8 O worship the LORD in the | beauty · of holiness;
 - * let the whole earth | stand in awe of him.
- 9 For he cometh, for he cometh to | judge the earth;
 - * and with righteousness to judge the world, and the | peoples with his truth.
 - 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 Portion of the Psalter: Psalm 8, 26



Psalm 8

- O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world; * thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!
- 2 Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, * that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider thy heavens, even the work of thy fingers; * the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;
- 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? * and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
- 5 Thou madest him lower than the angels, * to crown him with glory and worship.
- 6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands; * and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet:
- 7 All sheep and oxen; * yea, and the beasts of the field;
- 8 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; * and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD our Governor, * how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

Psalm 26

- BE thou my Judge, O LORD, for I have walked innocently: * my trust hath been also in the LORD, therefore shall I not fall.
- 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; * try out my reins and my heart.
- 3 For thy loving-kindness is ever before mine eyes; * and I will walk in thy truth.
- 4 I have not dwelt with vain persons; * neither will I have fellowship with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the congregation of the wicked; * and will not sit among the ungodly.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocency, O LORD; * and so will I go to thine altar;
- 7 That I may show the voice of thanksgiving, * and tell of all thy wondrous works.
- 8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, * and the place where thine honour dwelleth.
- 9 O shut not up my soul with the sinners, * nor my life with the blood-thirsty;
- 10 In whose hands is wickedness, * and their right hand is full of gifts.
- II But as for me, I will walk innocently: * O deliver me, and be merciful unto me.
- 12 My foot standeth right: * I will praise the LORD in the congregations.
- 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 Lesson: Jeremiah 31:1-6,15-16

At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. 2 Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. 3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. 4 Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry. 5 Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things. 6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God.

15 Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. 16 Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.

*Canticle: Magnificate Dominum (Psalm 34)



- O MAGNIFY the | Lord with me,
 - * and let us ex alt his name together.
- 2 O taste and see that the | LORD is good:
 - * blessed is the man that | trusteth IN him.
- 3 O fear the LORD, ye that | are his saints;
 - * for there is no want to | them that FEAR him.
- 4 The eyes of the LORD are up on the righteous,
 - * and his ears are | open \cdot unto their cry.
- 5 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a | broken heart,
 - * and saveth such as are | of a contrite spirit.
- 6 The LORD redeemeth the soul | of his servants;
 - * and none of them that trust in | him shall be condemned.

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. **A**men.

THE ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

†The Collect for Purity

A LMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

†The Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

†Kyrie eleison

Missa Marialis





[†]The Collect for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

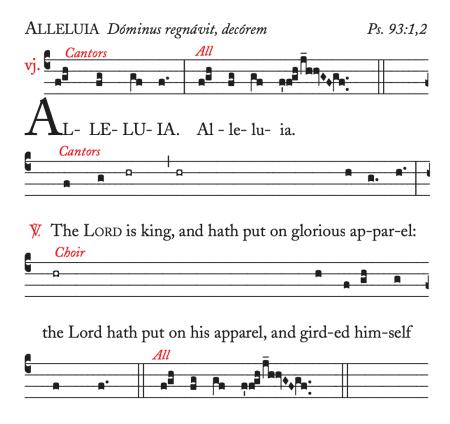
ALMIGHTY God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths: Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A LMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Epistle: Revelation 14:1-5

I LOOKED, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 and they sung as it were a new song

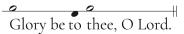
before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.



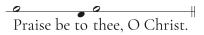
with strength. Al - le- lu- ia.

*The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-18

At the announcement of the Gospel, it is customary to mark your forehead, lips, and heart with the shape of a Cross, praying God would give you grace to know +, speak +, and love + the Gospel.



THE angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saving, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, an be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. 16 Then Herod, when he may that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, amid slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.





*The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the onlybegotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Homily

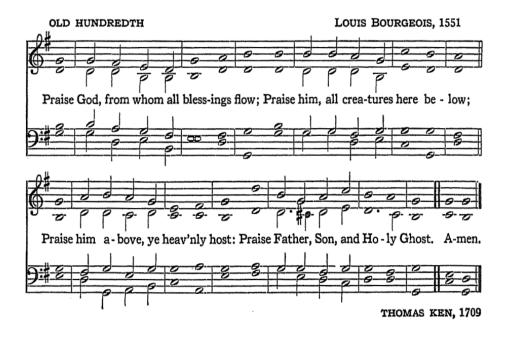
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Offertory: Chamber Choir 16th c. Polish Carol: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall:
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you!

* Presentation Doxology



[†]Prayer for the whole state of Christ's Church

Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

W E beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of <u>all Christian Rulers</u>, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all <u>Bishops and other Ministers</u>, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all <u>those who</u>, in this transitory life, <u>are in trouble</u>, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also \pm bless thy holy Name for all thy <u>servants</u> <u>departed this life</u> in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

†A General Confession & Absolution

Y E who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following

the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

(Here, we pause briefly to recall our sins.)

Amighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

A LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†Comfortable Words

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

OME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. St. Matt. xi. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. St. John iii. 16.

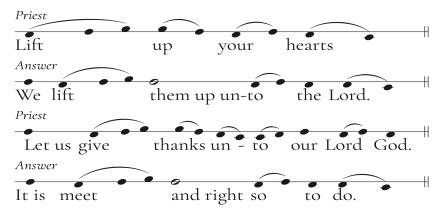
Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim. i. 15.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. 1 St. John ii. 1, 2.

†Sursum corda

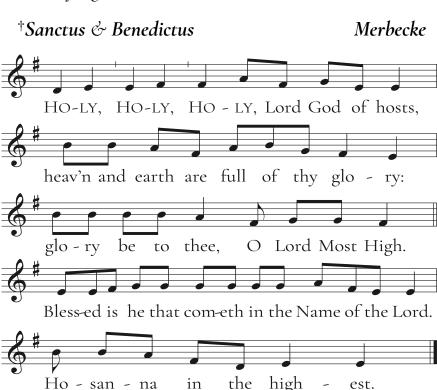


†Preface

T is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that $oldsymbol{1}$ we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

D ECAUSE thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only **)** Son, to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



in

the

Ho - san - na

[†]The Prayer of Consecration

A LL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me. + Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. +

†The Oblation

Wherefore O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and

glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

†The Invocation

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

A ND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,



†Prayer for Humble Access

We are not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

†Agnus Dei

Missa Marialis



24

Instructions for taking Holy Communion

If you are baptized into God's family and you sincerely love Christ, then you are welcome to partake of His Sacrament, whether you are a member of the Reformed Episcopal Church or another Christian denomination. To partake by the Common Cup, simply ingest the consecrated host that is placed in your palm. To partake by Intinction (where the consecrated host is dipped in the Precious Blood and placed upon your tongue), leave the consecrated host in your palm. If you are not receiving Holy Communion today, either because you are not baptized or for conscience's sake, you are still invited forward to receive a blessing. Indicate this preference by crossing your arms over your chest. Baptized children are welcome to receive Holy Communion if that is the practice and desire of the parents. If you have a severe gluten allergy, you may receive consecrated gluten-free hosts in the small section to the far right of the Communion rail. If you are returning to church after a long time away, you are encouraged to wait to receive Communion until you speak to one of the clergy. Instead, receive a blessing at the rail.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are invited to sing the following hymns during the time when we receive communion:



Text: Latin hymn, 11th century; adapted Martin Luther, 1524; tr. anonymous TALLIS' CANON Tune: Thomas Tallis, ca. 1561



Text: Valentin Thilo (1607-1662); tr. Geoffrey William Daisley Tune: German melody, pub. Cologne, 1623; arr. J.S. Bach (1685-1750) O JESULEIN SÜSS 10.8.8.8.10



Text: German carol; tr. anonymous Tune: German melody; arr. Hugo Jungst (1853-1923) JUNGST 8.8 with refrain

†Prayer of Thanksgiving

A LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

†Angels we have heard on high; verses 1 & 3 (in place of Gloria in Excelsis)



†Blessing

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn (next page)

Upcoming Events

- January 1, 6pm: Feast of the Circumcision
- January 6, 5:30pm: Feast of the Epiphany (and Festival)
- January 30 February 1: 39 Articles Seminary Class with Bishop Camlin
- February 22: Launch of evening service!

