

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT



THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 25, 2017

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. We are glad that you have chosen to worship God with us on this great feast; we hope you will rejoin us throughout the year. This order of worship, which follows the structure of the Mass, is provided to assist you in your prayer and participation. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Out of courtesy towards the musicians and in keeping with the reverence of the Holy Mass about to be celebrated, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice during the prelude. Please feel free to join in singing the carols below.

PRELUDE

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

CAROL; SUNG BY CONGREGATION

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA: IN NATIVITATEM DOMINI CANTICUM, H. 314

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

Quem vidistis, pastores? dicite, annuntiate nobis in terris quis apparuit? Natum vidimus, natum ex virgine. Parvulum qui natus est nobis: Filium qui datus est nobis, natum ex virgine, et choros Angelorum collaudantes eum. Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum. Revelavit in terra justitiam suam. Psallite Domino in cithara et voce psalmi, in tubis ductilibus, et voce tubae corneae, flumina plaudent manu. Montes exsultent a conspectu ejus.

Whom have you seen, O shepherds? Tell us, who has appeared on earth? "A Child we saw, born of the virgin. The little one who is born to us: a Son is given to us, born of the virgin, and choirs of angels praise him." The Lord has made his salvation known; he has shown his justice to the earth. Sing to the Lord with the harp and voice of singing, with trumpets, and the sound of the horn; let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains exult before him.

-Lauds antiphon for Christmas Day, Ps 97(98)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

GUSTAV HOLST

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger-full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

-Poem by Christina Rossetti

IN DULCI JUBILO, BWV 729

J.S. BACH

WHILE BY OUR SLEEPING FLOCK WE LAY

TRAD. GERMAN/ARR. HUGO JÜNGST

While by our sleeping flock we lay, there came an angel, bright as day: *"Awake with joy! Wake with joy! Joy, joy, joy!"* Praise ye the Lord on high with joy! Spake then the angel, "News I bring of Israel's long-expected king!" *Great be your joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise ye the Lord on high with joy!* Grace, truth, and right his rule attend; his kingdom knows no earthly end. *Great be your joy!... Peace upon earth, goodwill toward men; let the world shout the loud "Amen!"* Come, share our joy!

JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, 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, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, 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, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.



I WONDER AS I WANDER

TRAD. SPIRITUAL/ARR. J.J. NILES

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die, for poor onery people like you and like I: I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

A SPOTLESS ROSE

HERBERT HOWELLS

A spotless Rose is blowing Sprung from a tender root, Of ancient seers foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light Amid the cold, cold winter And in the dark midnight. The Rose which I am singing, Whereof Isaiah said, Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The blessed babe she bare us In a cold, cold winter's night. -Es ist ein rose estsprungen ("Lo, how a rose..."), 15th Cent. German

HERE IS THE LITTLE DOOR

HERBERT HOWELLS

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more, but enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head; All for the child that stirs not in His sleep, But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep. Bend low about His bed, For each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake, Lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet. -Frances Chesterton

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION FROM THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY

The Roman Martyrology for Christmas Day contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the proclamation help to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

ENTRANCE HYMN

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faith-ful, Joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O
God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he ab-
Sing, choirs of an-gels, Sing in ex-al-ta-tion, Sing, all ye
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap-py morn-ing, Je-su, to
come ye to Beth-le-hem; Come and be-hold him
hors not the Vir-gin's womb; Ve-ry God, Be-
ci-ti-zens of heav'n a-bove; Glo-ry to God
thee be glor-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,
Born the King of An-gels:
got-ten, not cre-a-ted: O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-
In the high-est:
Now in flesh ap-pear-ing:
dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Dominus dixit ad me*

PSALM 2:7, 1, 2, 8

*Dominus dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. V. Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditare sunt inania?**The Lord said to me: You are my son. It is I who have begotten you this day. V. Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?***KYRIE**

MISSA AD PRAESEPE (MASS AT THE CRÈCHE) GEORGE MALCOLM

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

MISSA AD PRAESEPE (MASS AT THE CRÈCHE) GEORGE MALCOLM

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedicimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecaciónem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserére nobis.
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spíritu: in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.


**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD***The Mass readings are found on page 30 in Sunday's Word.***FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 9:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

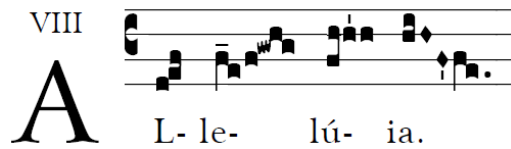
VII a

T 

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

Text: Revised Grail Psalter. Music: Richard Rice, used under Creative Commons 3.0 permissions.

ALLELUIA



Dominus dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. /The Lord said to me: You are my son. I have begotten you this day.

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14

HOMILY

CREDO (CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH)

CREDO III

Please join in the singing of the Creed.

XVII. s.

Redo in unum De- um, Patrem omni-po-téntem, factó-rem cæ-li et terræ,
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth

vi-si-bí-li-um óm-ni-um, et invi-si-bí- li-um. Et in unum Dómi-num Je-sum Chri-
Of all things visible and invisible, I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

stum, Fí-li-um De-i un-i-gé-ni-tum. Et ex Patre na- tum ante ómni- a sae- cu-la.
the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

De-um de De-o, lumen de lúmi-ne, De-um ve-rum de De-o ve-ro.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

Gé-ni-tum, non fac- tum, consubstanti- á-lem Patri: per quem ómni- a fac- ta sunt.
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

Qui propter nos hómi-nes, et propter nostram sa- lú-tem descéndit de cæ-lis.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All kneel (genuflect) at the words, “Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto...” (“...and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...”)

The Cathedral Choir sings this text in polyphony derived from the Missa ad Praesepe sung for tonight’s ordinary.

Cru-ci-fí- xus ét-i- am pro no-bis: sub Pónti- o Pi-lá-to passus, et sepúl- tus est.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

Et re-surré-xit térti- a di-e, se-cúndum Scriptú-ras. Et ascéndit in cæ- lum:
I and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven

sedet ad délixte-ram Pa- tris. Et í-te-rum ventú-rus est cum gló-ri- a,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

ju-di-cá-re vi-vos et mórtu-os: cu-ius regni non e-rit fi-nis. Et in Spí-ri-tum
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit

Sanctum, Dómi-num, et vi-vi-fi-cántem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-óque pro-cé-dit.
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

Qui cum Patre et Fí-li- o simul ador-á-tur, et conglo-ri-fi-cá-tur: qui locú-tus est
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken

per Pro-phé-tas. Et unam sanctam cathó-li-cam et apostó-li-cam Ecclé-si- am.
through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Confí-te-or unum baptísma in remissi- ónem pecca-to-rum. Et exspecto re-surre-
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection

cti- onem mortu-o-rum. Et vi- tam ventú-risæ-cu-li. A- men.
of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (GENERAL INTERCESSIONS)

After the Credo, those present pray for the needs of the Church and of the world.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Page 7 of Sunday's Word

OFFERTORY

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
4. See him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of

o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply
strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be,
an - gels sing; Come a - dore, on bend - ed knee,
an - gels praise; Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
While our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - ri - a

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

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

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Laetentur caeli*

PSALM 96:11

Laetentur caeli et exsultet terra ante faciem Domini: quoniam venit.

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult before the face of the Lord, for he comes.

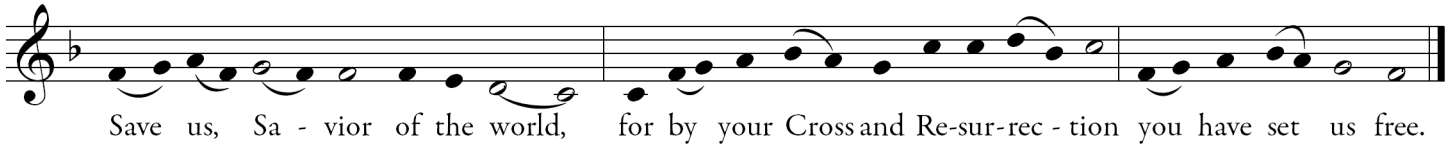
SANCTUS

MISSA AD PRAESEPE (MASS AT THE CRÈCHE) GEORGE MALCOLM

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

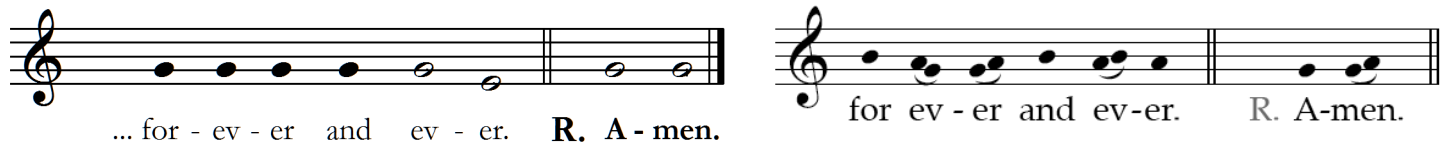
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI



AMEN

After the Doxology, the people respond "Amen" according to one of the formulae below:



AGNUS DEI

MISSA AD PRAESEPE (MASS AT THE CRÈCHE) GEORGE MALCOLM

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.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all Catholics who are properly disposed (i.e., in the state of grace and having fasted for one hour before communion) to come forward in the usual way to receive Holy Communion.

All others, including our non-Catholic guests, may remain in their pews and join us in prayer. Alternatively, to participate in the communion procession and receive a blessing, come forward in the line and cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister. Thank you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *In splendoribus*

PSALM 110:3

In splendoribus sanctorum ex utero ante luciferum genuite.

Amidst the splendors of the heavenly sanctuary, from the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you.

COMMUNION

(Please join in singing the Christmas carols below.)

AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray; Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

SILENT NIGHT

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



POSTCOMMUNION

SHEPHERD'S CAROL

BOB CHILCOTT

We stood on the hills, Lady, Our day's work done, Watching the frosted meadows That winter had won. The evening was calm, Lady, The air so still, Silence more lovely than music Folded the hill. There was a star, Lady, Shone in the night, Larger than Venus it was And bright, so bright. Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, It seemed to us then Telling of God being born In the world of men. And so we have come, Lady, Our day's work done, Our love, our hopes, ourselves, We give to your son.

-Clive Sansom

CLOSING

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er -
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild
last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his
na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God - head see: Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

VOLUNTARY

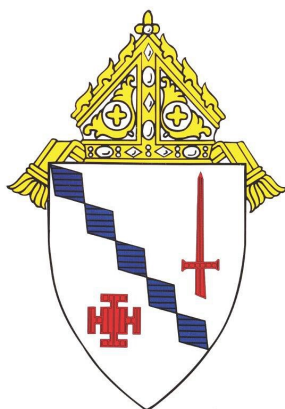
"FINALE" FROM SONATA I, OP. 42

ALEXANDRE GUilmANT

ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Merry Christmas from all here at the Cathedral of St. Paul! We hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas season and will return to worship with us again soon. One of the unique elements of the celebration of Christmas in the Roman Rite is that we have four distinct liturgies for Christmas: Vigil Mass, Midnight Mass, Mass at Dawn, and Mass during the Day. Each Mass focuses on a particular aspect of the Nativity. At Midnight Mass, we hear the Gospel account of the Nativity of Christ: interestingly enough, this is the only Christmas liturgy where the Nativity account is the Gospel reading. In addition, as tonight's entrance antiphon text from Psalm 2 shows, Jesus' divine sonship is the reason for this day. It seems at times that the whole world is engaged in vain struggles, as the antiphon's versicle sings. However, the gift of peace is what our Lord Jesus Christ wants us to experience on this day more than anything. To add more emphasis, the Church *(over)*

even assigns the verse for the Alleluia from the same Psalm verses as the introit. So, it is very appropriate to view this entire liturgy through the lens of “peace on earth”. Tonight’s prelude draws its inspiration from many sources. After the initial carol, we hear a cantata setting by Charpentier. One of the most prolific and gifted composers of the French Baroque period, Charpentier worked for nearly every imaginable patron (royalty and the Jesuits), wrote in almost every genre of the time, and was so popular he received many outside commissions (at a time when this was uncommon, and Lully had a stranglehold on French music). His sacred music is particularly well-regarded, and one hears his versatility (excellent writing for soloist, trio, chorus, and instruments) in this very piece. We then hear a number of traditional carol arrangements, a Bach organ work on “Good Christian men, rejoice”, and an Appalachian song collected by J.J. Niles in the 1930’s. The last portion of the prelude is devoted to two Howells compositions. “Here is the little door” is familiar to Catholics for its poet if not the composer. It was penned by Frances Chesterton, wife of famous author and apologist GK Chesterton. While GK is certainly more well-known, he admitted that he owed his religious faith in large part to his wife, and Frances certainly was devoted in serving as GK’s manager and behind-the-scenes strength and support. While the poetry is very good, Herbert Howells’ excellent choral writing elevates the carol to greatness. We hear much of the same beautiful choral writing in his “A Spotless Rose”, an arrangement of an alternate translation for the hymn text we know in English as “Lo, how a Rose”. During the Mass, we hear Bob Chilcott’s “Shepherd’s Carol”, written in 2001 for the Choir of King’s College, Cambridge, a group that Chilcott himself sang with as a boy chorister and lay clerk before eventually gaining notoriety as a member of the King’s Singers for over 10 years. This lovely carol shows why Chilcott’s writing is so beloved: he has a gift for developing simple melodies into lush, vocal tapestries. The poetry is from Clive Sansom, a Tasmanian poet well-known in the Commonwealth for both adult and children’s poetry. The “main course”, musically speaking, for Mass tonight is a lovely polyphonic Mass setting by George Malcolm, organist and master of the choirs at Westminster Cathedral in London in the 1950’s and 60’s. He is known more for his cultivation of the forthright sound for which the Westminster choir has been known for many years, but this Mass shows his talents as a composer. Whereas Westminster’s day-to-day repertoire is focused on Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony of the Renaissance, this Mass shows a more plaintive and simple style, albeit one with eight-part vocal writing! The organ supplies cheerful interludes between many dramatic episodes in the voices. As a “Mass at the crib” it is hushed and expectant at times, too—awaiting the first sounds of our Infant Lord. Please visit our sacred music pages (www.stpaulsbhm.org/sacred-music) to see how you might contribute to our music apostolates at the Cathedral! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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