

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT



Adoration of the Shepherds, Lorenzo Lotto, 1534

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
DECEMBER 25, 2022

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. We are glad you are worshipping 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, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice during the prelude. Please join in singing the carol below.

PRELUDE



O RADIANT DAWN

JAMES MACMILLAN

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice, come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." O Radiant Dawn... – "O" Antiphon from the Magnificat at Vespers, Dec. 21; Isaiah 9:2

CAROL: JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH

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

"PIFA" FROM *MESSIAH*

GEORG FRIDERIC HÄNDEL

AVE MARIA

ROBERT PARSONS

Words (in Latin) from the traditional "Hail Mary" prayer.

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.

JESUS, GENTLEST SAVIOUR

CALVERT SHENK

Jesus, gentlest Saviour, God of might and power, Thou Thyself art dwelling In us at this hour. Nature cannot hold Thee; heaven is all to strait For Thine endless glory And Thy royal state. Out beyond the shining Of the farthest star, Thou art ever stretching Infinitely far. Yet the hearts of children Hold what worlds cannot, And the God of wonders Loves the lowly spot.

—Text: Fr. Frederick Faber, CO; Hymntune: Louis Lambilotte



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)

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio! O Beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

—Matins responsory for Christmas Day

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.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 God of God, Light of Light, _____
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - al - ta - tion, _____
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, _____

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him
 Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb; Ve - ry God, Be -
 Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God _____
 Je - su, to 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. *¶* Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati sunt inania?

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten You this day. *¶* Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

KYRIE

MISSA «O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM», FR. TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA

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

GLORIA

MISSA «O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM», FR. TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA

All may be seated during the Gloria, taking their cue from the clergy and ministers in the sanctuary.

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.
Dómine Fili unigénite, Jesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi, súscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad déxteram 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

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-6

GRADUAL *Tecum principium*

PSALM 110:3,1

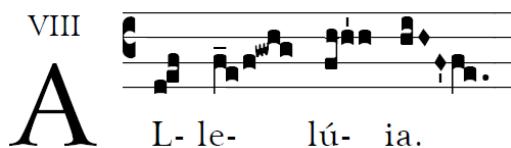
Tecum principium in die virtútis tuæ: in splendóribus Sanctórum, ex útero ante lucíferum génui te.

¶ Dixit Dóminus Dómino meo: Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimícos tuos, scabéllum pedum tuórum.

Yours is princely power in the day of Your birth, in holy splendor; before the daystar, I have begotten You.

¶ The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool".

ALLELUIA



I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14

HOMILY



CREDO (CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH)

CREDO III

Please join in the singing of the Creed.

V

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium, et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnianae saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstantiale Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salvum descendit de caelis.

All kneel while Cathedral Choir sings "Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto...et homo factus est" ("And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...and became man") from the Victoria Mass. Then stand and resume singing (next page).

Cru- ci- fí- xus ét- i- am pro nobis sub Pónti- o Pi- láto; pas- sus, et sepúl-
 tus est. Et resurréxit té- ri- a di- e, secún dum Scrip- tú- ras. Et ascén- dit in cæ- lum, sedet
 ad déx te- ram Pa- tris. Et í- terum ven- tú- rus est cum gló- ri- a, judicáre vivos et mórtu- os:
 cuius regni non é- rit finis. Et in Spí- ri- tum San- ctum, Dó- minum, et vivi- ficán- tem: qui
 ex Patre Fí- li- óque pro- cédit. Qui cum Patre et Fí- li- o simul adorá- tur et con- glo- ri- fi-
 cátur: qui locútus est per prophé- tas. Et unam, san- ctam, cathó- licam et apostó- li- cam
 Ecclé- si- am. Con- fí- te- or unum bap- tís- ma in remis si- ó- nem pec- cató- rum. Et ex spé- cto
 resur- recti- ó- nem mortu- ó- rum. Et vi- tam ven- tú- ri sae- cu- li. A-
 men.

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 ANTIPOH *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.

HYMN

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
 in ex-cel-sis De - o.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

MISSA «O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM», FR. TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus: Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt cæli 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

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Resur - rec - tion un - til you come a-gain.

AGNUS DEI**MISSA «O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM», FR. TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA**

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 genui te.

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

HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

JAN PIETERSZOON SWEELINCK

Hodie Christus natus est. Noe, noe. Hodie, Salvator apparuit, Alleluia. Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli. Noe, noe. Hodie, exsultant iusti dicentes: gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia. / Today, Christ is born: Today, the Savior appeared: Today, on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today, the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

—Magnificat antiphon, II Vespers of Christmas Day

“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN” FROM MESSIAH

GEORG FRIDERIC HÄNDEL

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6

CLOSING

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

FINAL, OP. 21

CÉSAR FRANCK

In honor of the 200th Anniversary of the composer’s birth.

ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Cathedral of St. Paul! We hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas season and will return to worship with us often. At Midnight Mass, we hear the Gospel account of the Nativity of Christ. From the very beginning of the liturgy at the entrance antiphon and in all the chant antiphons, Jesus' divine sonship is clearly the reason for this day. It seems at times that, as the introit's versicle sings, the whole world is engaged in vain struggles. It is very appropriate to view this entire liturgy through the lens of "peace on earth". "O Radian Dawn" is one of Scottish composer James MacMillan's *Strathclyde Motets*. This collection sets a variety of texts of the Mass and Office throughout the year. The composer sets the word "come" in an ascending, expanding, and intensifying sequence of repetitions leading to the text's climax: "Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death". A verse for ladies setting a text from Isaiah precedes a *da capo* repetition of the antiphon text. While few of his works are performed often, Parsons' incredibly beautiful setting of the Ave Maria at least somewhat makes him a household name in Renaissance choral music. Set for five voices, the elegant polyphony is beautiful but also very intricate: each soprano entry is one step higher, perhaps portraying stairs to heaven in honor of Our Lady's Assumption. A final Amen is one of the most thrilling conclusions in English polyphony. J.J. Niles' beautiful Spiritual arrangement needs little introduction; tonight, we present it with tenor soloist. It is followed by another (partially) American carol, in that the composer is one of the Cathedral's former directors of music. Calvert Shenk wrote many works for this very community, and this charming carol (setting a text by Fr. Faber) is one of the best. One of the most prolific and gifted composers of the French Baroque period, Charpentier worked for nearly every imaginable patron (royalty and the Jesuits), and was so popular he received many outside commissions at a time when this was uncommon. His sacred music is particularly well-regarded, and one hears his versatility (excellent writing for soloist, trio, chorus, and instruments) in the Christmas cantata presented tonight. Tonight's "main course", musically speaking, is the transcendent Missa "O Magnum Mysterium" by Fr. Tomas Luis de Victoria. Victoria is (along with Palestrina, DiLasso, and Byrd) the most famous and highly-regarded of all high Renaissance composers. A Spaniard, Victoria gained attention as a very young man for his skill as an organist, and was appointed organist and cantor to a number of the most important seminary and collegiate chapels in Rome before his ordination in 1574. Brought back to Spain as chaplain to the daughter of Emperor Charles V, the Dowager Empress Maria of Austria, he had his residence at the royal convent of discalced Poor Clares in Madrid. This appointment allowed Victoria ample time for composition as well as a steady and lucrative income. After the death of the empress, he continued as chapel organist until his death. His legacy is rich and varied: while we know he was certainly familiar with a great deal of secular music, especially madrigals, Victoria's output is exclusively sacred works—a true rarity for that period and in general. Missa "O Magnum Mysterium" is a "parody" Mass: that is, it is based on a pre-existing composition (in this case, the motet *O Magnum Mysterium*, sung last in the prelude. In the traditional use, the Mass would borrow all of the choral parts of a motet and simply reassign the text of the various movements of the Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, etc.) However, Victoria assigns various phrases of the motet to the Ordinary texts in a much more intentional way: texts in the motet of a certain mood are paired with similar texts in the Mass Ordinary to evoke similar emotions in those listening. A Messiah chorus and a particularly energetic setting of Hodie Christus by Dutch organist J.P. Sweelinck close out our anthems and motets, while Franck's stunning Final is a festival flourish (with a lot of fancy footwork) to end the Liturgy. Merry Christmas!

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