

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT



*The Adoration of the Shepherds (1770), Anton Raphael Mengs, Museo del Prado*

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
DECEMBER 25, 2024

*Presented in loving memory of Anthony "Tony" Vinsavich*

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 and in keeping with the reverence of Holy Mass, please turn off all electronic devices and refrain from talking in normal voice. Please join in singing the carols below.

## PRELUDE

“LAISSEZ PAISTRE VOS BESTES” FROM *NOËLS POR INSTRUMENTS*, H.531

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

CAROL: O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away. Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night, and show Your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Divine Messiah, The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

O come, Desired of Nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold, Will break the captive fetters, Redeem the long-lost fold. Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night, and show Your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Divine Messiah, The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

O come, in peace and meekness, for lowly will Your cradle be, Though clothed in human weakness We shall Your Godhead see. Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night, and show Your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Divine Messiah, The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.



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.

## 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

## “VOUS QUI DESIREZ SANS FIN” FROM *NOËLS POR INSTRUMENTS*, H.531

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

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### CAROL: INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

W ZLOBIE LEZY

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.

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### CAROL: GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

GOD REST YE MERRY

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same; how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. O tidings...

“Fear not,” then said the angel, “Let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior of Virgin pure and bright, to free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.” O tidings...

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 is filled with heavenly grace. O tidings...

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### JESUS CHRIST, THE APPLE TREE

TRAD./ARR. POSTON

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

—Joshua Smith

## 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 faith - ful, 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

MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOËL (1694), H.9, MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

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

## GLORIA

MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOËL (1694), H.9, MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

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

Glória in excelsis 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 deprecatióem 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

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9:1-6

### GRADUAL *Tecum principium*

PSALM 110:3,1

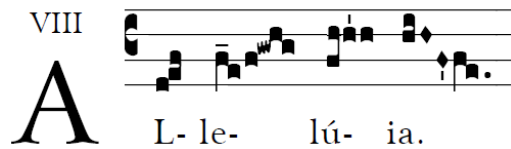
*Tecum principium in die virtútis tuæ: in splendóribus Sanctórum, ex útero ante lucíferum génui te.*

*✠ 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.

(Falsobordone by Fr. Tomas Luis de Victoria)

## GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14

## HOMILY



## CREDO (CREED/PROFESSION OF FAITH)

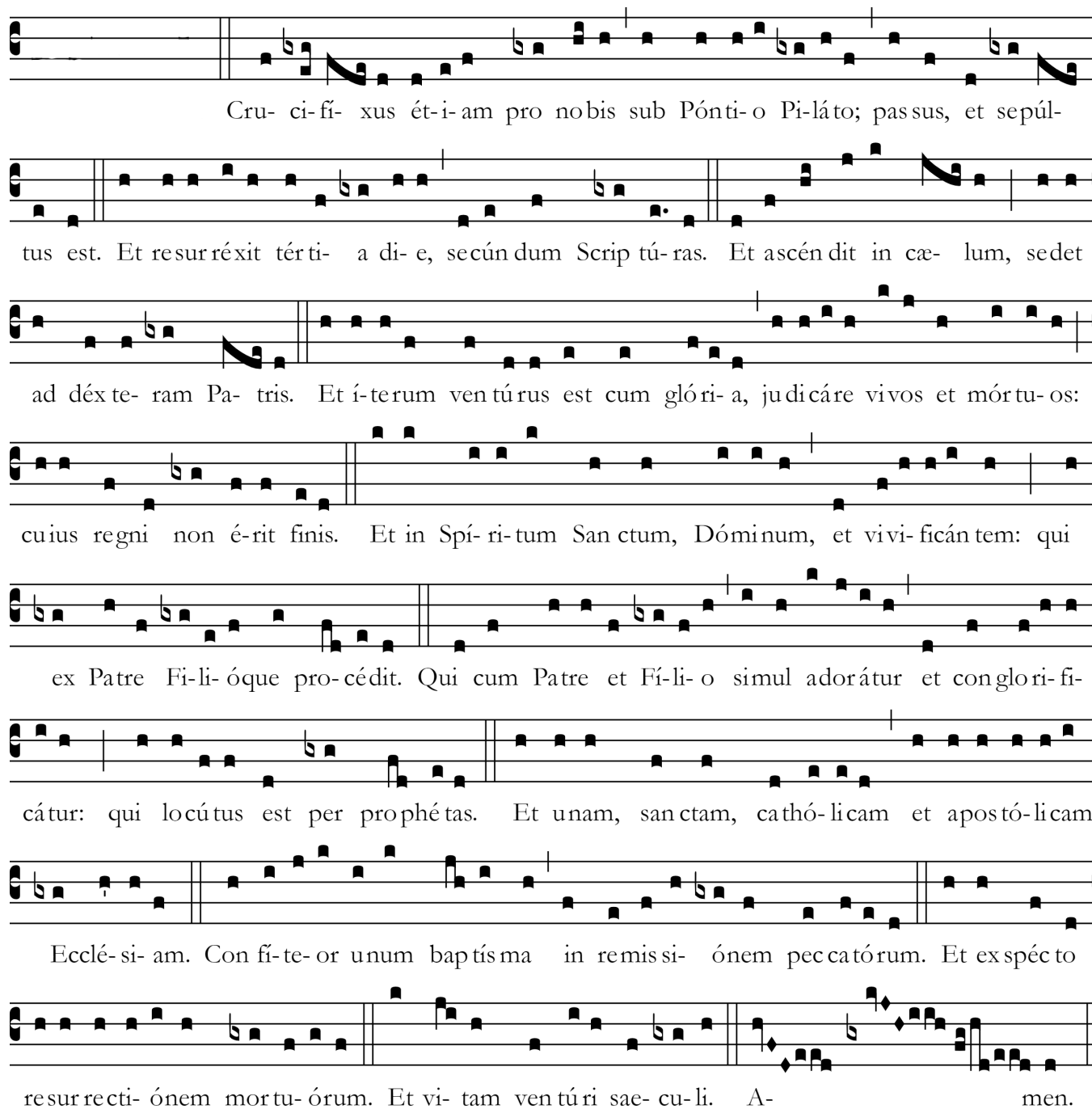
CREDO III

Please join in the singing of the Creed.

V

Credo in unum De- um, Patrem omnipotén tem, factó- rem cæ li et terræ, vi- sibi- li- um ómni- um, et invi- sibi- li- um. Et in unum Dóminum Ie- sum Chri- stum, Fí- li- um De- i unigéni- tum. Et ex Patre na- tum ante ómni- a sae- cula. De- um de De- o, lumen de lúmine, De- um verum de De- o vero. Géni- tum, non fa- ctum, con- sub- stan- ti- á- lem Pa- tri: per quem ómni- a fa- cta sunt. Qui propter nos hómines, et propter nos- tram sa- lútem descén- dit de cæ lis.

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 Messe de Minuit. Then stand and resume singing (next page).



Cru- ci- fí- xus ét-i- am pro nobis sub Pónti- o Pi- láto; passus, et sepúl-  
 tus est. Et resur réxit tér ti- 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 túrus est cum glóri- a, judicáre vivos et mórtu- os:  
 cuius regni non é-rit finis. Et in Spí- ri- tum San ctum, Dóminum, et vivi- ficán tem: qui  
 ex Patre Fi- li- óque pro- cédit. Qui cum Patre et Fí- li- o simul ador átur et conglo ri- fi-  
 cátur: qui locútus est per prophé tas. Et unam, san ctam, cathó- licam et apostó- licam  
 Ecclé- si- am. Con fí- te- or unum baptísma in remissi- ónem peccatórum. Et expéc to  
 resur recti- ónem mortu- órum. Et vi- tam ven túri 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.*

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## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Page 7 of Sunday's Word*

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.*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us, our songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, And  
 ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; Re -  
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings flow Far  
 prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, And



heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



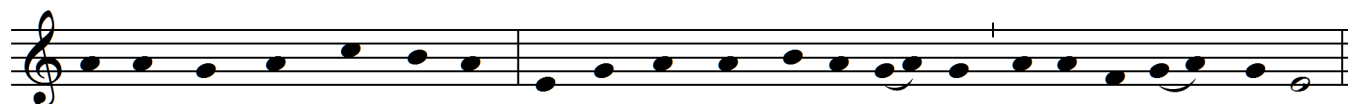
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

# SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOËL (1694), H.9, MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

*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 Res-ur - rec - tion un-til you come a-gain.



## AGNUS DEI

MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOËL (1694), H.9, MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

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

LULLY, LULLA, LULLAY

KENNETH LEIGHTON

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, By, by, lully, lullay. O sisters too, How may we do For to preserve this day This poor youngling For whom we do sing, By, by, lully, lullay? Herod the king, In his raging, Charg'd he hath this day His men of might, In his own sight, All young children to slay. That woe is me, Poor child, for thee! And ever morn and may, For thy parting, Nor say nor sing By, by, lully, lullay!*

—Coventry Carol, 15th Century England

PLEASE RESPECT OUR CUSTOM OF STAYING THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSING HYMN.

THIS IS OUR CORPORATE ACT OF THANKSGIVING AFTER MASS. THANK YOU!

# CLOSING

MENDELSSOHN



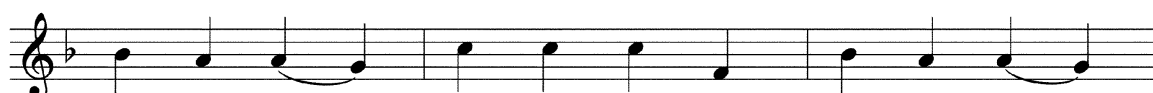
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er -  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



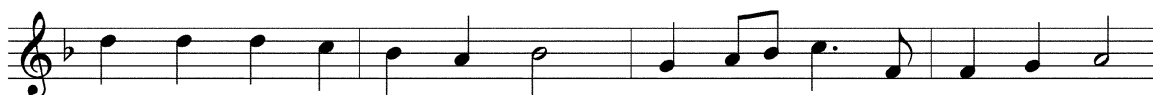
new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild  
last - ing Lord: Late in time be - hold him come,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



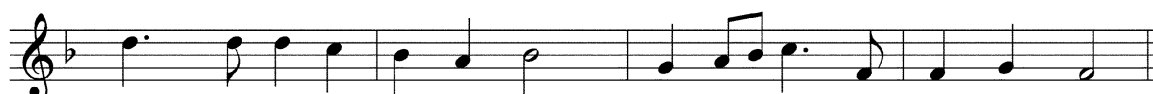
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you  
Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



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

NOËLS FOR ORGAN

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

## 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. 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". This year's program features one of the masterpieces of Western sacred music, Charpentier's *Midnight Mass for Christmas*. Written in 1694, it is based on French Christmas carol tunes, which are then (very artfully) paired with movements of the Mass ordinary. Later French Baroque (often called "French Classical") repertoire is often criticized as being rather vapid, uninspired, and structurally deficient (this is also influenced by a very Anglo-German bias in the American academia from the 1860s through the 1960s), but it is very difficult to imagine leveling this criticism at this piece. An ingenious setting, it is effervescent: pure joy! The *Midnight Mass* sets the *Kyrie* in relatively jaunty manner, although the *Christe* is a heartfelt plea for mercy by a solo trio to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The *Gloria* begins with great anticipation—quietly, reflecting the still and calm that must have characterized most of the night of Christ's birth. Afterward, the music immediately progresses to unbridled joy as we sing "*Laudamus te/We praise you*" a mood that continues through the rest of the movement. The "*Et incarnatus*" of the *Credo* is also notable for its slow, dramatic, three-fold proclamation of "*et homo factus est/and He became man*" as a profound act of faith in the Incarnation. The *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei* are both notable for their light character which seems a clear depiction of joy. This amazing piece's mood is foreshadowed in the prelude as we hear one of Charpentier's sets of *Noels for Instruments*. Among more modern music, we present the famous spiritual *I wonder as I wander* in J.J. Niles' iconic arrangement, as well as a setting by Elizabeth Poston of the anonymous New England text *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree...* lest you think we only do music from other countries! Our carols during the prelude reflect French, Polish, and English roots, respectively, and are new to this year's service. We hope you enjoy the variety! As always, we present the Gregorian chant proper for the entire Mass: this allows us to enjoy the transcendent beauty of the repertoire that has been the cornerstone of the Roman Rite liturgy for over a millenium. The postcommunion anthem is one of the classic 20th Century settings of the English carol *Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child*. Kenneth Leighton's setting of this text (a mother's lament, in many ways) utilizes the carol's perspective, placing a soprano soloist in tension with a four-part choir that more or less narrates the text. The choir establishes a gentle triple meter that imitates the rocking of a baby, then eventually comments on the travails that await Our Infant Lord through his earthly life. The soprano soloist, acting in the person of Our Lady, seems to comment sadly until a final resolution on an E major chord, perhaps showing a return to the manger, so to speak, where all is calm and bright. Leighton's tasteful use of jazz harmony is notable not only for its beauty, but for utilizing jazz's tonal and harmonic ambiguity to musically "paint" the difficult, unpredictable road that awaits Our Lord. For the voluntary after Mass, we encounter the very different music of Louis-Claude Daquin, a somewhat later contemporary of Charpentier. A child prodigy from a family of very learned Italian immigrants, Daquin rapidly ascended to the highest heights of French organists, becoming organist to Louis XV in 1739 and *organiste titulaire* at Notre-Dame-de-Paris in 1755. He is mostly known today for these phenomenal noëls, which neatly encapsulate much of the "French Classical" organ school of the 17th and 18th Century. Our pipe organ is especially designed for this repertoire, so enjoy this little trip to Paris! Merry Christmas!

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