

# THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

MOST REVEREND STEVEN J. RAICA, BISHOP

VERY REVEREND BRYAN W. JERABEK, PASTOR & RECTOR



## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Please follow this order of worship for today's music.

### PRELUDE

VÊPRES DE LA VIERGE, OP. 18

MARCEL DUPRÉ

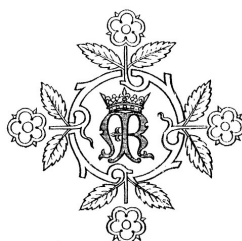
### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (12:10PM) *Gaudens gaudebo*

ISAIAH 61:10

Please join in the antiphon below after the cantor introduction and between verses.

III

I re-joyce heart-i-ly in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (6:30PM) *Gaudens gaudebo*

ISAIAH 61:10; PSALM 30

Gaudens gaudebo in Domino, et exsultabit anima mea in Deo meo; quia induit me vestimentis salutis, et indumento iustitiae circumdedit me, quasi sponsam ornatam monilibus suis. *✠ Exaltabo te, Domine, suscepisti me: nec delectasti inimicos meos super me.*

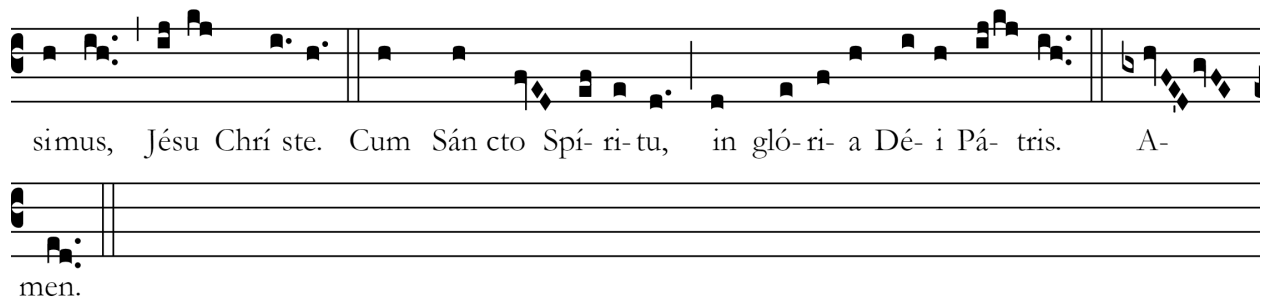
I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul, for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels. *✠ I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me.*

VIII

**K** Y- ri- e e- lé- i- son. *ij.* Chri ste e-  
 lé- i- son. *ij.* Ký- ri- e e- lé- i- son. Ký- ri- e  
 e- lé- i- son.

V

**G** Ló-ri- a in excélsis Dé- o. Et in térra pax homí-ni-bus bó-nae vo-lun-tá-tis.  
 Lau-dá-mus te. Benedí-cimus te. A-do-rá-mus te. Glo-ri-fi-cá-mus te. Grá-ti-as á-gi-  
 mus tí-bi pro-pter má-gnam gló-ri-am tú-am. Dó-mine Dé-us, Rex cae-lés-tis, Dé-us Pá-  
 ter om-ní-po-tens. Dó-mine Fí-li uni-gé-ni-te Jé-su Chrís-te. Dó-mine Dé-us, Agnus  
 Dé-i, Fí-li-us Pá-tris. Qui tóllis pec-cá-ta mún-di, mi-se-ré-re nó-bis. Qui tóllis  
 pec-cá-ta mún-di, sú-sci-pe de-pre-ca-ti-ó-nem nós-tram. Qui sé-des ad délix-te-ram Pá-tris,  
 mi-se-ré-re nó-bis. Quó-ni-am tu só-lus sán-ctus. Tu só-lus Dó-mi-nus. Tu só-lus Al-tís-



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (ALL MASSES)

PSALM 98



ALLELUIA

GREGORIAN CHANT, MODE VIII



Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (6:30PM) *Ave Maria*

LUKE 1:28

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum; benedicta tu in mulieribus, alleluia.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, alleluia.*

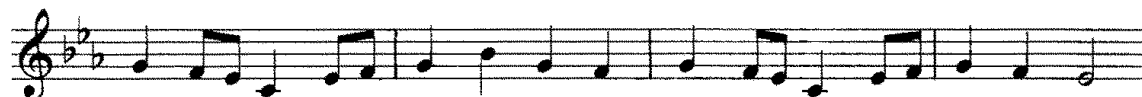
# OFFERTORY HYMN (ALL MASSES)

SING OF MARY

PLEADING SAVIOR



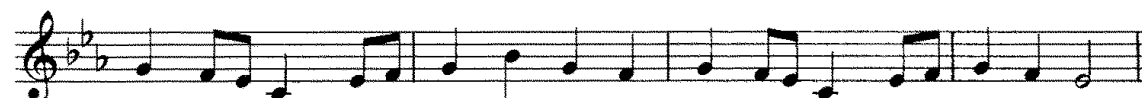
1. Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, Vir - gin-moth - er un - de - filed,
2. Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, In the home at Naz - a - reth.
3. Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; Glo - ry be to God the Son;



Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, Who be - came her lit - tle child.  
Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry Love en - dur - ing un - to death.  
Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; Glo - ry to the Three in One.



Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Con - stant was the love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,  
From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, From all saints the song as - cends,



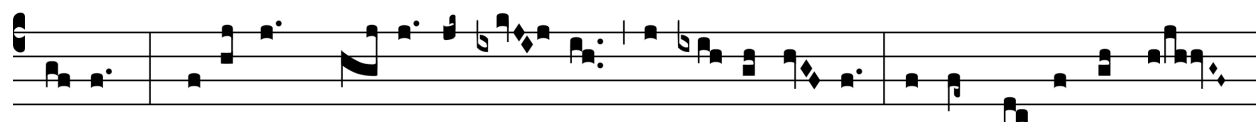
Word made flesh, our ver - y broth - er, Takes our na - ture by his birth.  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
And the church the strain re - ech - oes Un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

# SANCTUS (ALL MASSES)

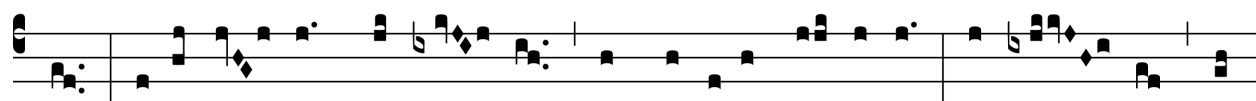
MASS VIII



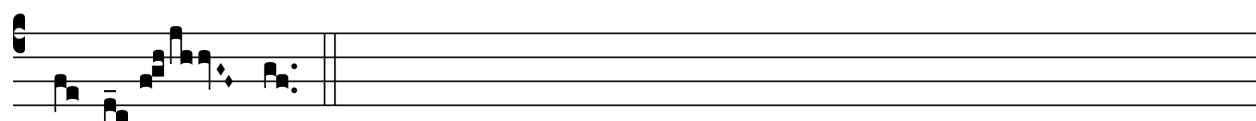
An - ctus, \* San ctus, San - ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -



ba - oth. Pleni sunt cæ - li et ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán na in excél -

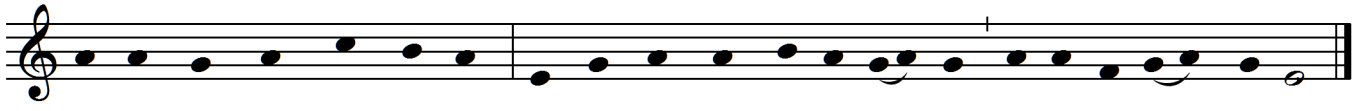


sis. Bene - dí - ctus qui ve - nit in nó mine Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán - na in



ex cé - sis.

## MYSTERIUM FIDEI



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

## AMEN (12:10PM)



A - men, a - men, a - men.



## AGNUS DEI (ALL MASSES)

MASS VIII

VI  
**A** - gnus De- i, \* qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. Agnus

De- i, \* qui tol- lis peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. A-gnus De- i, \*

qui tollis peccá-ta mun-di : dona no- bis pa- cem.

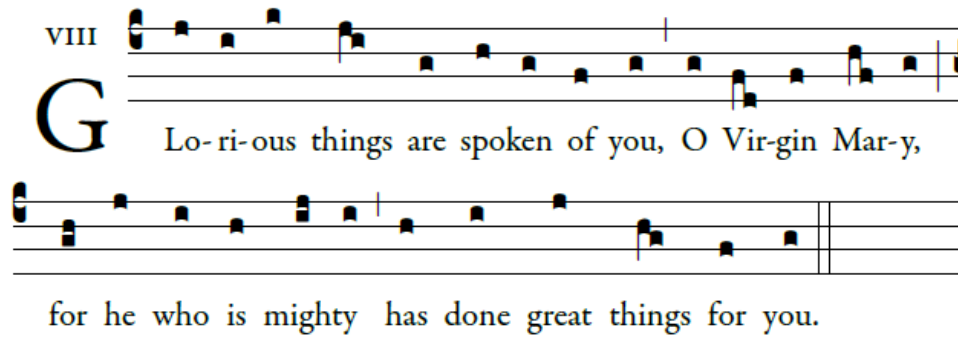
## HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Please join in the antiphon below after the cantor introduction and between verses.

VIII



**G** Lo-ri-ous things are spoken of you, O Vir-gin Mar-y,  
for he who is mighty has done great things for you.

## POSTCOMMUNION (6:30PM)

TOTA PULCHRA EST MARIA

GRZEGORZ GORCZYCKI

Tota pulchra es, Maria Et macula originalis non est in te. Tu gloria Jerusalem Tu laetitia Israel Tu honorificentia populi nostri. Alleluia. / You are all beautiful, Mary, and the original stain [of sin] is not in you. You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you give honor to our people. Alleluia.

—Vespers antiphon, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

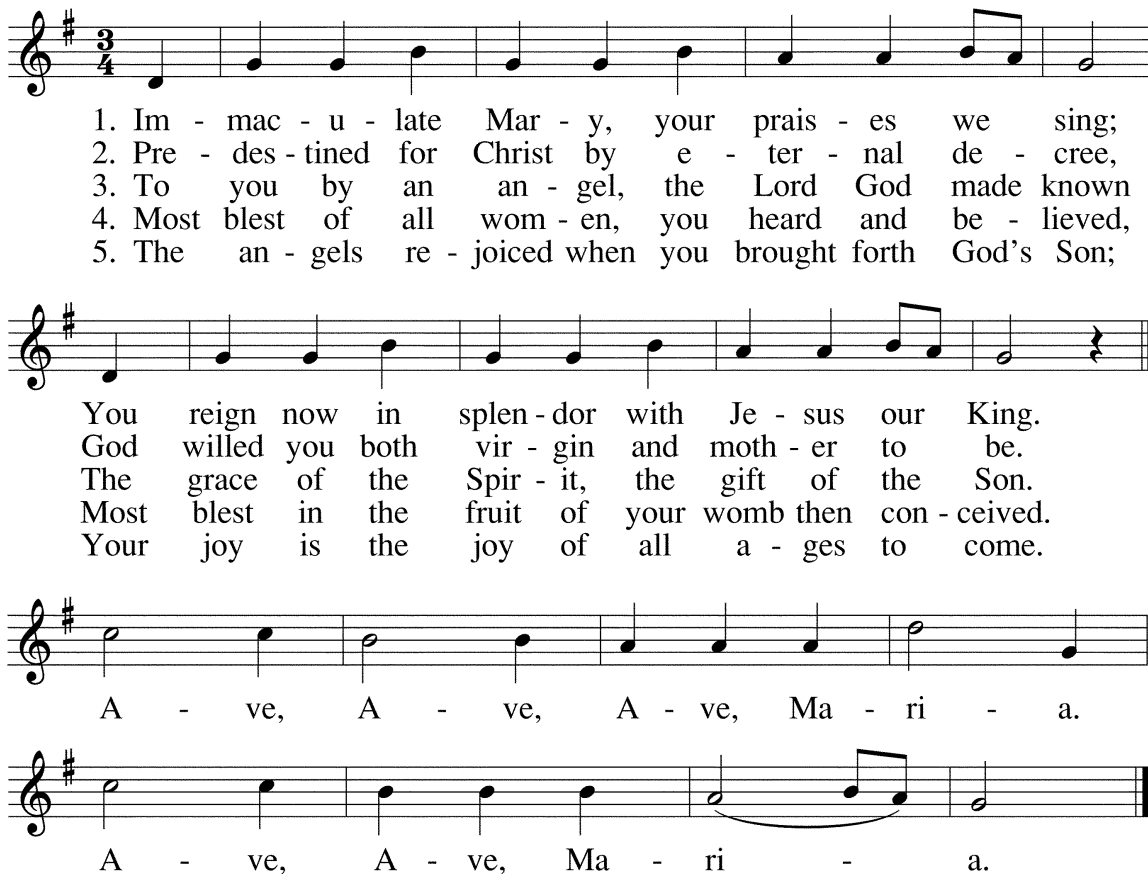
PLEASE RESPECT OUR CUSTOM OF STAYING THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSING HYMN.

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

## CLOSING

IMMACULATE MARY

LOURDES HYMN



1. Im - mac - u - late Mar - y, your prais - es we sing;  
2. Pre - des - tined for Christ by e - ter - nal de - cree,  
3. To you by an an - gel, the Lord God made known  
4. Most blest of all wom - en, you heard and be - lieved,  
5. The an - gels re - joiced when you brought forth God's Son;

You reign now in splen - dor with Je - sus our King.  
God willed you both vir - gin and moth - er to be.  
The grace of the Spir - it, the gift of the Son.  
Most blest in the fruit of your womb then con - ceived.  
Your joy is the joy of all a - ges to come.

A - ve, A - ve, A - ve, Ma - ri - a.

A - ve, A - ve, Ma - ri - a.



### ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is one of our most treasured feast days as Christians: who could not celebrate the fact that God prepared Our Lady as the tabernacle for Our Lord just as he instructed the Israelites in the Old Testament to prepare a place for his presence in the Ark of the Covenant? It is even more a blessing that this is patronal feast day for the United States of America, our beloved country. That said, today our Masses show the universality of the Catholic Faith: the Gregorian (Latin) ordinary we sing today is sung all over the world on this feast. We unite ourselves with our Christian brothers and sisters (regardless of language) with this "Mass of the Angels". The motet at the 630pm Mass is a composition of a Polish Baroque musician, Grzegorz Gorczycki. A priest-musician, he is closely associated with Krakow (the city we associate with Pope St. John Paul II). Looking at Fr. Gorczycki's life, it is edifying to see that his love of music is matched by his love of the poor (and therefore, Our Lord). He used his stipends from various priestly obligations to help the imprisoned and others. This motet looks forward and back: it is Baroque in many aspects (formal divisions are more abrupt, the idiom is often very instrumental), but also Renaissance in many ways (counterpoint is pervasive, and harmonies are resolved according to the older practices). This is a unique window in on how things sounded in Eastern Europe at the turn of the 18th Century! Marcel Dupré's Vespers Antiphons are one of the most important 20th Century organ compositions. Originally improvisations at Notre-Dame-de-Paris for Vespers, the man who rescued Rolls-Royce, Claude Johnson, was present at Vespers and wrote Dupré to obtain a copy of the printed score. Dupré of course responded that these were but improvisations. Johnson then commissioned Dupré to commit the pieces to print...and here we are! This is a wonderful example of those with means using them to benefit culture and society!

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Concerts are in the church  
unless otherwise noted.  
Smart casual dress is  
recommended.



No entrance fee.  
Donations to the  
Cathedral Music Fund  
are warmly welcomed!

**2025-2026**

**Season**

2120 Third Avenue North • Birmingham, Ala. 35203

	<b>Sunday, September 28 4:00PM BRUCE E. LUDWICK, JR., organist</b> Our Director of Music & Organist since 2013, Mr. Ludwick will present a varied program featuring J.S. Bach's Toccata & Fugue in F and the complete Symphonie N°. 1 for Organ by Louis Vierne, two cornerstones of the organ repertoire, along with contrasting pieces.
	<b>Friday, October 17 7:00PM BYRD ENSEMBLE</b> Our old friends, the Byrd Ensemble, based in the Seattle area, will return for their third visit to the Cathedral! This year's program will celebrate the 500 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the great Renaissance composer, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.
	<b>Saturday, November 8 7:00PM NICK BOTKINS, organist</b> Organist & Choirmaster of the Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist in Stamford, CT, Mr. Botkins is known for his liturgical instinct and expressive improvisation. He will present a program of works by Elgar, Thalben-Ball, Bairstow, and Widor.
	<b>Sunday, December 14 4:00pm A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS</b> An interactive concert with a blend of sing-along favorites and solo/ensemble repertoire, "A Cathedral Christmas" will feature all Cathedral choral ensembles (and friends!), to help us appreciate the beauty of Advent and anticipate the glories of our Lord's Nativity!
	<b>Tuesday, January 6 7:00pm ISABELLE DEMERS, organist</b> Québec native Dr. Isabelle Demers, Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University in Montréal, makes her second visit to the Cathedral – this year, in connection with our hosting of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians (CRCCM).
	<b>Friday, March 13 5:30pm CATHEDRAL CHOIR</b> Choral Stations of the Cross is a venerable and long-standing tradition at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, giving Cathedral Choir an opportunity to preview Holy Week repertoire in a prayerful environment that also aids the congregation's Lenten meditation.
	<b>Friday, April 17 7:00pm THE AEOLIANS</b> The Aeolians of Oakwood University in Huntsville are one of Alabama's great cultural exports. With a long history of elite performance at the national and international levels, their repertoire ranges from the Baroque to the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Don't miss this!
	<b>Sunday, May 10 4:00pm McGALLIARD/RENNAL, organists</b> Our Director of Music & Organist inaugurated the season, and now it concludes with our Assistant Organist, Mr. James McGalliard, and our Organ Scholar, Mr. Daniel Rennal! Each holds an important and valued role in the Cathedral's fine sacred music program.