



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Solemn High Mass on Christmas Eve

Friday, 24 December 2010
at 7:30 pm

We welcome you to St. James'. Tonight Christians throughout the world celebrate the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the fulfillment of the deepest hope of the ages. We welcome people of every background to this celebration and invite you to join in our rejoicing. All baptized persons, including children, are encouraged to receive Holy Communion.

In the birth of Jesus, we celebrate more than an idea, more than a philosophical truth. We celebrate that at a specific time and place the one through whom all was created came to be part of his own creation and began his life among us as one of us. "In the days of Caesar Augustus...when Quirinius was governor of Syria...in the city of David, which is called Bethlehem."

To all, may you receive the greatest gift of all this Christmas, the gift of that peace which the world cannot give - the peace of Jesus Christ the Savior who on a wondrous night long centuries ago came to live among us in all meekness and humility.

Liturgy of the Word

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the Entrance of the Ministers into the church.

Introit

The Celebrant sings the Introit:

Antiphon Ps. 2: 7



The Lord said to me, "You | are my son; || this day I | have be-got-ten you."

Psalm Ps. 2: 1-2, 4-9



1. Why do the | na - tions rage || and the people | ut - ter FOL - ly?

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son ||
and to the | Ho-ly SPIR-it.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever | SHALL be, ||
world without | END. A-men.

The Antiphon is repeated.

The altar party enters as **verses 1 & 2** are sung.

Verses 1 & 2
to Crèche

Verses 3 & 4
to Lady Shrine

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Blessing of the Crèche

Celebrant Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.
People **He will dwell with us and we shall be his people.**
Celebrant God himself is with us. Alleluia.
People **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who on this night did cause your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed and glorious ever-Virgin Mary for our salvation. ✠ Bless, we pray, and ✠ hallow this Crèche, wherein are shown forth the wonders of that sacred birth; that all those who behold it may ponder and adore the mystery of this holy incarnation and be filled with your benediction unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The altar party proceeds to the Lady Shrine as verses 3 & 4 of "O come, all ye faithful" are sung.

Station at the Lady Shrine

Celebrant What a great mystery, what a wonderful sign, that animals should see the Lord, newborn, lying in a manger.
People **Blessed Virgin, whose womb was privileged to carry Christ the Lord.**
Celebrant Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you.
People **Blessed Virgin, whose womb was privileged to carry Christ the Lord.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

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

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

Station at the Crucifix

The Celebrant sings

Celebrant

Bles - sed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People

God is the Lord who has shined up - on us

Let us pray.

O God, your blessed Son Jesus Christ became man, that we might become the children of God: Grant, we pray, that being made partakers of the divine nature of your Son, we may be conformed to his likeness; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis (Hymn 421)

All glory be to God on high



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Old Testament

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (*Isaiah 9:2-7*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-4,11-13

Remain seated.

Refrain *Sung by Celebrant and repeated by all*



To - day is born our Sa - vior Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Verses *Sung by Celebrant*

A Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

All repeat refrain.

B Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

All repeat refrain.

C Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

All repeat refrain.

D They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

All repeat refrain.

Epistle

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (*Titus 2:11-14*)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 84

Love came down at Christmas



1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Gospel Alleluia

All stand.



The Celebrant sings this verse:

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy: to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

The People repeat the Alleluia Verse.

Holy Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:1-20)

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Father Chris King

Nicene Creed

All stand.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the X resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**All bow at the
mention of the
Incarnation*

Prayers of the People

Remain standing.

The Lay Assistant announces the particular intercessions from the steps and the People are encouraged to include their own prayers and thanksgivings.

The Intercessor now leads the Prayers:

As we join the angels and celebrate with joy the birth of the Son of God, let us offer prayers to God who gives new birth to sons and daughters in every place, saying, "Glory and praise to you, O living God."

By the birth of the timeless Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Lawrence our bishop, Rowan the Archbishop of Canterbury, Katharine our Primate, for the priests, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the conversion of the whole human race to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, James of Jerusalem the brother of our Lord, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord, our God.

Celebrant

Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ who unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Remain standing.

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Welcome & announcements

When the announcements are concluded, the Celebrant says the Offertory Sentence:

Rejoice! For I bring good news and great joy to all people: today is born to you a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Liturgy of the Altar

During the Offertory Hymn, representatives of the congregation, with the children, bring the people's offerings of bread and wine for the Eucharist, money and food for those in need, to the Celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented, placed at the Altar and censed. The People are censed after the gifts, bowing to the Thurifer before and after.

Offertory Hymn 102

Once in royal David's city

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (Hymnal S130)

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of seven systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and some melodic lines, with some notes tied across measures. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.



The people stand or kneel, and the Celebrant continues

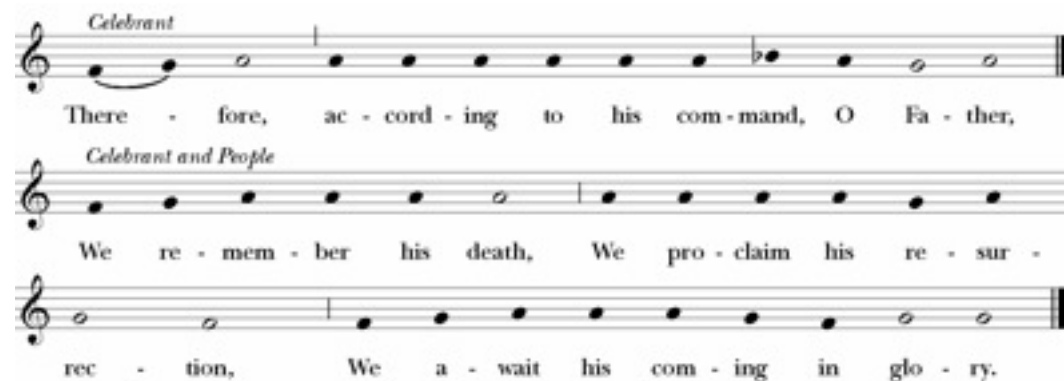
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People



The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, James the brother of our Lord, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant genuflects while the altar party bows in adoration of the Lord in his Eucharist. The People make a silent Act of Worship after their own custom.

The Lord's Prayer

Sung by all.

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem (Hymnal S164)

Sung by all.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The image shows a musical score for the Fraction Anthem. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.' and 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.'

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We welcome and encourage all baptized persons, including children, to receive Holy Communion. The response when receiving is "Amen."

To receive by intinction, hold your hands together in prayer, and the Priest will communicate you. If you do not wish to receive Communion, please come forward for a blessing from the Priest.

A period of quiet recollection follows the Holy Communion.

Postcommunion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Postcommunion Collect

The Celebrant says

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After the Postcommunion Collect, the Icon of the Nativity is placed on the altar in sight of the People. The clergy and other ministers take their places before the altar for the reading of the Prologue of the Gospel according to St. John.

The Prologue of the Gospel according to St. John

All stand.

Celebrant The beginning of the holy Gospel, according to John.

People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God (**here all genuflect who are able**) AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:1-14*)

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postcommunion Hymn 111

Sung kneeling

Silent night, holy night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. born! Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. born!
birth. Je - sus, the Sa - vior, is born! birth.
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

