



**The Mass of Christ
Christmas Eve
8 pm**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, NJ**

Please stand

The Proclamation of Christmas

**Processional Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful*, verses 1-2
Station at the Creche**

Hymnal 1982, 83



Pr: The Word was made flesh



All: *And dwelt among* *us*

Let us pray: Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The creche is censed, and the procession continues
O Come All Ye Faithful, verses 3,6*

Hymnal 1982, 83

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

You were born for our salvation: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace: Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Let us pray: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (*Please be seated*)

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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 96



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

Sing to the Lord a new Song; sing to the Lord the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. (Antiphon)

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
He is more to be feared than all gods. (Antiphon)

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it.
Let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the field shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. (Antiphon)

A Reading from the Epistle to Titus

For 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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

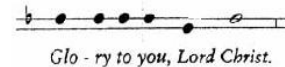
Gospel Acclamation



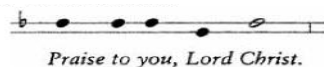
V: I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

(The Alleluia is repeated)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke



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!" The Gospel of the Lord.



Sequence Hymn after the Gospel *Good Christian Friends Rejoice, v.1 Hymnal 1982, 107*

The Homily

The Nicene Creed (Please stand)

BCP, 358

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 resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Father, on this holy night, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church to be the Body of Christ, present in love and grace in the world. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your loving arms all those who have died in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

On this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Priest: Father, on this holy night angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, St. Martin of Tours, and all your Saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace and Announcements

Offertory Anthem *He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised*

Gerald Near

He whom joyous shepherds praised, When the angel's song was raised
Bidding them be not amazed, Heav'n's all glorious King is born.
He whom sages, westward faring, Myrrh and gold and incense bearing,
Worshipped bowing low before him Reigns as King this happy morn.
Now rejoice with Jesus' mother; Praise her newborn Son, our brother;
Angels vie with one another Praising him beyond the sky.
Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth, Yet of Mary manhood gaineth,
Born our God; let us adore him: Glory be to God on high.

Offertory Carol *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Hymnal 1982, 105

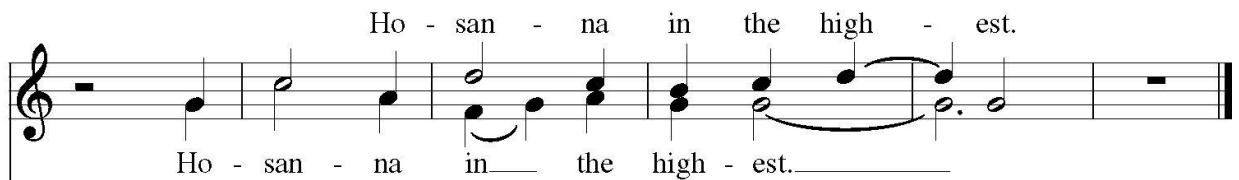
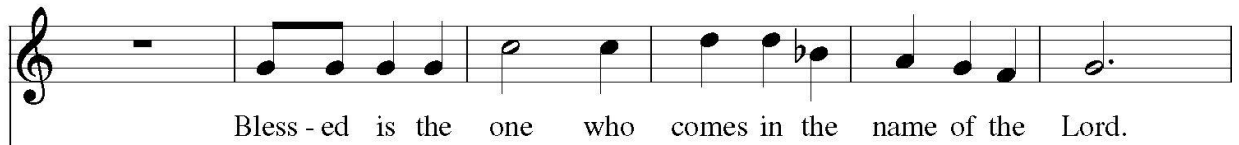
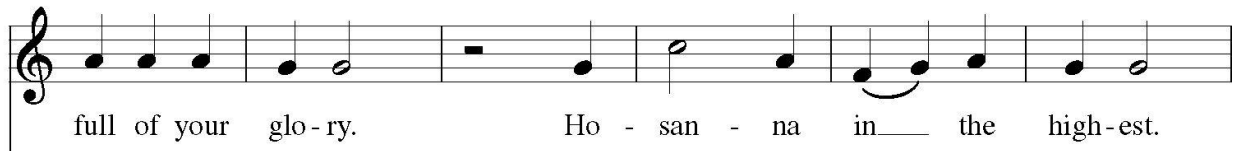
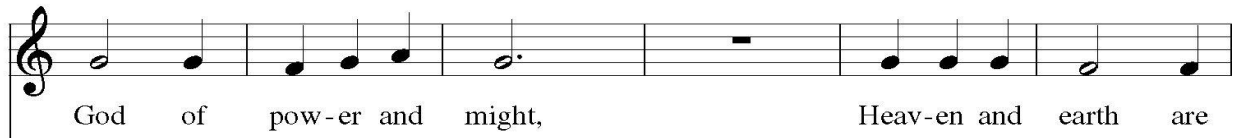
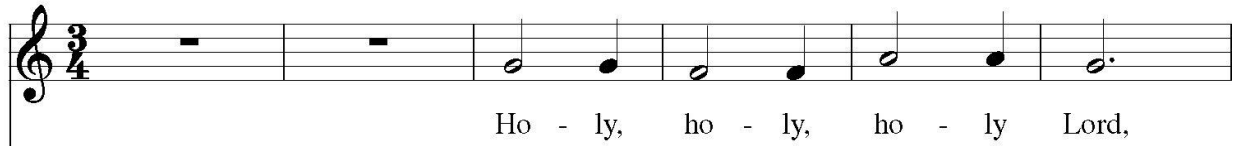
The Liturgy of the Altar

The Lord be with you/ *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts/ *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



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, *We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;*

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 Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph her Spouse, St. Martin of Tours, 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 forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Fraction

Lamb of God (Sung by Choir)

Hirten

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

The Holy Communion

Communion Anthem *Star Child, Earth Child*

Shirley Erena Murray

Star Child, earth Child, go between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,

Refrain: This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know, R/

Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears, R/

Spared child, spoiled child, memory full of years, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine, R/

Offertory Carol: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Hymnal 1982, 89

As the priest is performing the ablutions, and the final communion hymn is being sung, the people's candles are lit. When the priest kneels to venerate Christ in the manger, all please stand or kneel to sing:

Silent Night

Hymnal 1982 111

Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or stand*)

BCP, 365

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.

Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World*

Hymnal 1982, 100