



**The Mass of Christ
Christmas Eve, 9 pm**

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

Please stand

The Proclamation of Christmas

Processional Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful*, verses 1-2

Hymnal 1982, 83

Station at the Creche



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.

Gloria in excelsis vv.1, 3

Hymnal 1982, 96

Collect: 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)

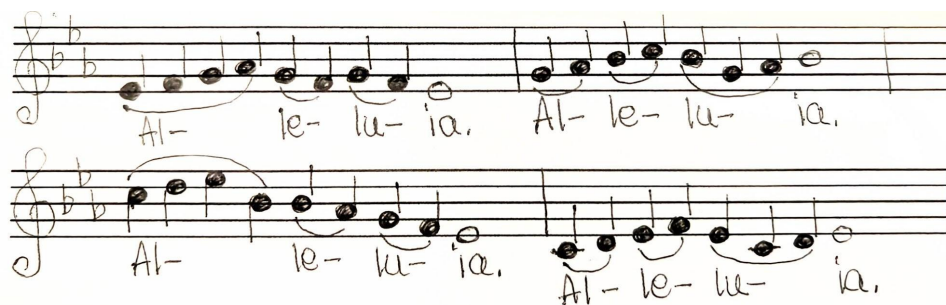
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it.
Let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the field shout for
joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. (Antiphon)

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.

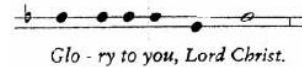
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation



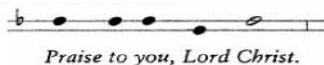
I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord. (The Alleluia is repeated)

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.



The Homily

The Nicene Creed (Please stand)

BCP, 358

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: *Salvator Mundi Natus Est*

Gustav Holst

*In Bethlehem that noble place As by prophecy said it was,
Of Virgin Mary full of grace, Salvator mundi natus est.
Be we merry in this feast, In quo Salvator natus est.*

*On Christmas night an angel told, To shepherds watching o'er their fold,
"In Bethlehem with beasties wold, Salvator mundi natus est".*

*Behold to you we bring great joy For why? Jesus is born today
To us of Mary that holy May, Salvator mundi natus est.*

*Then compassed were the shepherds quite, Around them shone a great light
"Dread ye naught," said the angel bright, The Savior of the world is born.*

*And thus in faith find Him ye shall, Lying poorly in oxen stall".
The shepherd's lauded God for all, The Savior of the world is born.*

Offertory Carol *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Hymnal 1982, 107

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow-er and might, Heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues on page 367 in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction and Lamb of God

Hirten

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
 world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

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 *Maria Walks Amid the Thorn*

Mark Schweizer

*Maria walks amid the thorn, Kyrie eleison, Maria walks amid the thorn,
Which seven years no leaf has born. Jesus and Maria.*

*What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison.
The little child doth Mary bear, Beneath her heart he nestles there.*

*And as the two were passing near, Kyrie Eleison.
Lo! Roses on the thorn appear. Jesus and Maria.*

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

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* 1,2,4

Hymnal 1982, 100

Serving Today:

Thurifer: Michael Maloney Crucifer: Nick Persson Reader: Jennifer Persson

Eucharistic Ministers: Yvonne Comeau, Chris Bockus

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Flutist: Kevin Willois Celebrant: Father Rob Laws

Ushers: David Persson, Larry Ottenstroer