

# Night of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2023 8:00 pm

find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God & saying,

<sup>14</sup> **GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN & ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS!"**

<sup>15</sup> ■ When the angels had left them & gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken

*Welcome Guests and Visitors! We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Reception Desk in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an "I'm New" card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.*

*Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter about obtaining a hearing device.*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Prelude

Melody Tzang, harp, and Si-fou Tzang, organ

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

## Opening Hymn

*O Come All Ye Faithful - verses 1-3*

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,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

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;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

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;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*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.

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Gloria**

*How Great Our Joy!*

Traditional German Carol

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:

***How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!***

There shall be born, so He did say, In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

## **The Collect**

**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.**

## **The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14**

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.

Reader     The Word of the Lord.

Response   ***Thanks be to God.***

## **The Psalm: Psalm 96 Cantate Domino**

- 1   *Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.***
- 2   *Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
      proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.***
- 3   *Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.***
- 4   *For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
      he is more to be feared than all gods.***
- 5   *As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
      but it is the Lord who made the heavens.***
- 6   *Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
      Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!***
- 7   *Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
      ascribe to the Lord honor and power.***
- 8   *Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
      bring offerings and come into his courts.***
- 9   *Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
      let the whole earth tremble before him.***
- 10  *Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
      he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
      he will judge the peoples with equity."***
- 11  *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.***

- 12 *Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.*
- 13 *He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.*

## Gospel Hymn

### *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Cantor: Verse 1, Congregation: Chorus

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Chorus:

***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***



*I come to proclaim  
good news to you*

## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)**

*All stand.*

Deacon     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Response   ***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.]

Deacon     The Gospel of the Lord.

People     ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **Gospel Response   *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (vs. 1 - All)**

***Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!***

***Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!***

## The Sermon

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

## Prayers of the People

*All remain standing. Deacon or other leader*

In waiting on your return, we lift our prayers saying, **Hear our Prayer. . .**

*The Presider will add a concluding Collect.*

## Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Leader and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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 Peace

*All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*



# HOLY COMMUNION

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## Offertory Music

*The Candlelight Carol*  
St. Thomas Chancel Choir and Strings

John Rutter

## Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.  
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### *Eucharistic Prayer B*

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

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions.*

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The image shows the first line of musical notation for the Sanctus. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and' are written below the notes. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, and a quarter note C4. The notation continues with similar patterns for the rest of the line.

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



*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, O God . . .

. . . 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 and thanksgiving . . .

. . . 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 Lord's Prayer**

*People and Celebrant*

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.***

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Celebrant may say* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion Music

### *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Chancel Choir and oboe, Steve Brotherson, vocal solo

### *The Star Carol* (from Alfred Burt Carols)

Alfred Burt

Chancel Choir and oboe

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Christina Rosetti

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 in ex - cel - sis De - o.



*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

*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.***

*The nave lights shall be darkened as the light moves from the altar and spreads throughout the congregation. Everyone is asked to place their unlit candle at an angle to the lit candle when passing the light. The lit candle should remain vertical at all times.*

*Once the light has passed to everyone in the room, the carol, "Silent Night" will be sung. Some may wish to kneel as they sing.*

*At the conclusion of the carol, the nave lights will be brought gradually to normal during the blessing, and the congregation is asked to extinguish their individual candles. Please place used candles in the baskets with the ushers as you leave this evening.*

Hymn

*Silent 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. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Peace, Peace (Ensemble)*

# Christmas Blessing

## Hymn

### *Joy to the World!*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven 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

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

## Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.  
 People ***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude

Melody Tzang, harpist, and Si-fou Tzang, Piano

*To request prayers, please fill out the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the Prayer Request box at the back of the church, place them in the offering plate, or bring them to the church office. Prayers of the People are written weekly. Normally they are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.*

### Instrumentalists:

String Trio: Shelley Armer, Elizabeth Schuller, An Tran  
 Oboist: Meribeth Risebig  
 Organist: Si-fou Tzang  
 Harp: Melody Tzang





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