



Saint Peter Cathedral

*Erie, Pennsylvania
December 25, 2020*

The Nativity of the Lord



Christmas



Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.I.
Bishop of Erie, Pennsylvania



Opening Hymn (*sung by all*)

O Come All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

Verses



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †
3. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †
4. Ad - é - ste fi - dé - les, lae - ti tri - um - phán - tes, Ve -



1. come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
3. Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry giv'n;
4. ní - te, ve - ní - te in Béth - le - hem.



1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
4. Na - tum vi - dé - te Re - gem an - ge - ló - rum.

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve -



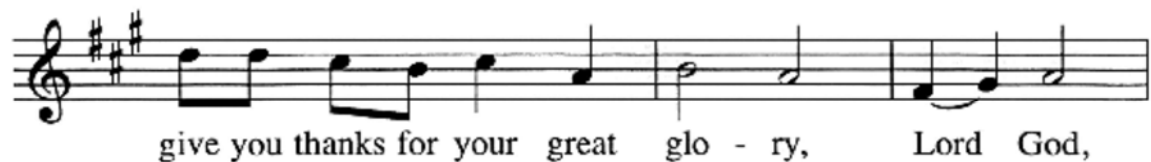
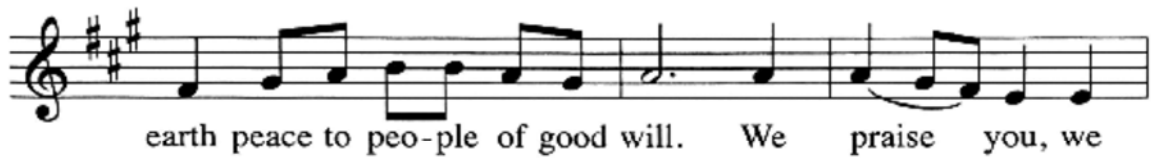
come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!
ní - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mí - num.

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711–1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt. Music: John F. Wade.



Gloria: (sung by all)

A New Mass for Congregations
Carroll Thomas Andrews



Choir, Assembly ad lib.



sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you

take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our

prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - - men.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

After the reading, the reader says, "The word of the Lord," and all respond:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (cantor/all)

Psalm 96

Venite Adoremus
(O Come, Let Us Adore Him)

Richard Robert Rossi (b. 1962)



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Second Reading

After the reading, the reader says, "The word of the Lord," and all respond:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: (cantor/all)

Gospel Reading

Before the Gospel, the Priest/Deacon says, "The Lord be with you," and all respond:

And with your spirit.

*Before Priest/Deacon says, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N"., and all respond: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*After the Gospel reading, the Priest/Deacon says, "The Gospel of the Lord," and all respond: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Homily



Profession of Faith: (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*genuflect*)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(*stand*) For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* * *

General Intercessions



Preparation of the Gifts

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
 2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,
 3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
 2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -
 2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as
 3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; adapt. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

* * *

Preparation of the Gifts

The Priest prays "... that the sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father, " and all respond:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

The Priest says the prayer over the gifts, following this, the people respond:

Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer/Preface

The Eucharistic Prayer begins with a dialogue between the Priest and the assembly.

*Priest: The Lord be with you. All: **And with your spirit.***

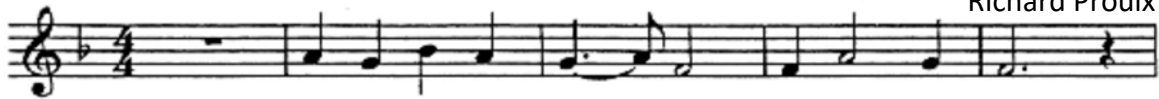
*Priest: Lift up your hearts. All: **We Lift them up to the Lord.***

*Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. All: **It is right and just.***



Holy, Holy, Holy: *(sung by all)*

Richard Proulx



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est.

The Mystery of Faith: *(sung by all)*

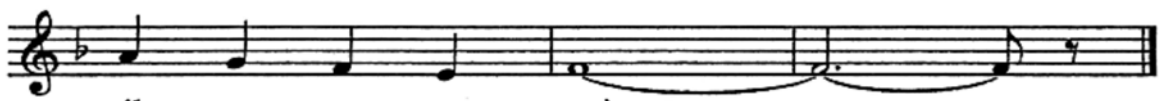
Richard Proulx



When we eat this Bread and drink this



Cup, we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un -



til you come a - gain.



Great Amen: *(sung by all)*

Richard Proulx

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

The image shows a single staff of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a whole note. The lyrics are written below the staff.

The Lord's Prayer: *(recite together)*

Sign of Peace: *After the Priest says, "The peace of the Lord be with you always," and all respond:*

And with your spirit.

Lamb of God: *(sung by all)*

Trinity Mass

Becket G. Senchur

Andante

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:
grant — us peace, — grant us peace.

The image shows four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The lyrics are written below the staves. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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After the Priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God,... called to the supper of the Lamb." the people respond:

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
But only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**



Communion Antiphon: *(sung by all)*

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



1. Vir - gin Moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
2. stream from heav-en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia!
3. beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, | Sleep in heav - en - ly peace. |
| 2. Christ the Sav - ior is born, | Christ the Sav - ior is born." |
| 3. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, | Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. |



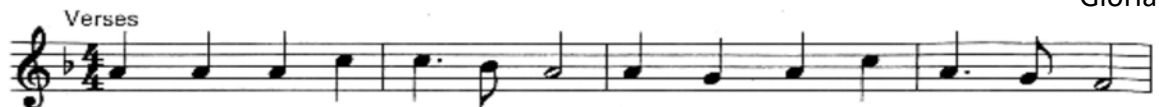
CONCLUDING RITE

Final Blessing

Dismissal

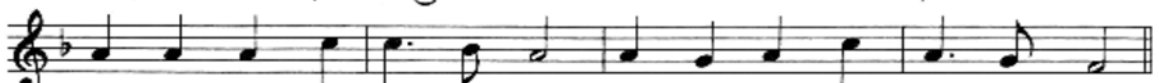
Closing Hymn: (*sung by all*)

Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
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;

1. *Án - ge - les can - tan - do es - tán Tan dul - cí - si - ma can - ción;*
2. *Los pas - to - res sin ce - sar Sus can - ta - res dan a Dios;*
3. *Hoy a - nun - cian con fer - vor Que ha na - ci - do el Sal - va - dor;*
4. *Oh, ve - nid pron - to a Be - lén Pa - ra con - tem - plar con fe*



1. And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in spire your heav'n - ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

1. *Las mon - ta - ñas su e - co dan Co - mo fiel con - tes - ta - ción.*
2. *Cuán glo - rio - so es el can - tar De su me - lo - dio - sa voz.*
3. *Los mor - ta - les go - za - rán Paz y bue - na vo - lun - tad.*
4. *A Je - sús, Au - tor del bien, Al re - cién na - ci - do Rey.*



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a a Dios en el cie - lo.



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a a Dios en el cie - lo.

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music*, II, London, 1862;
English tr. by James Chadwick, 1813-1882, and others, alt.; Spanish tr., anon. Music: Trad. French carol.

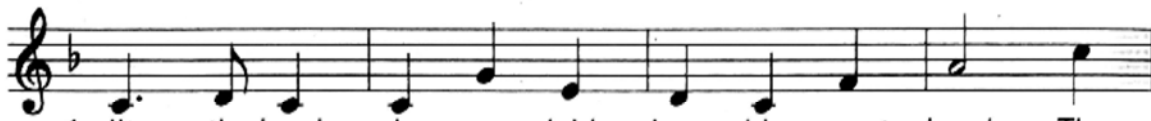


CHRISTMAS CAROLS

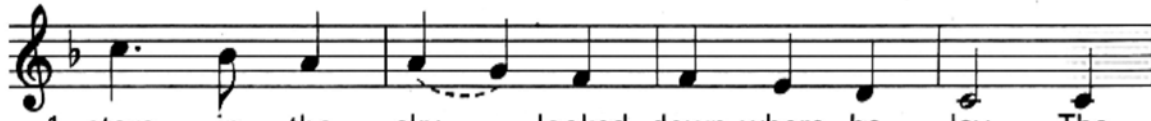
Away in a Manger



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The
2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I
3. by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless



1. stars in the sky — looked down where he lay, The
2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And
3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Text: 11 11 11 11; verses 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, ca. 1885;
verse 3, John T. McFarland, 1851-1913; Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs*, 1892, alt. Music: Attr. to James R. Murray, 1841-1905.



Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



1. ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
3. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
3. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4-9; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
 Music: T. Hawkes' *Collection of Tunes*, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759; adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.



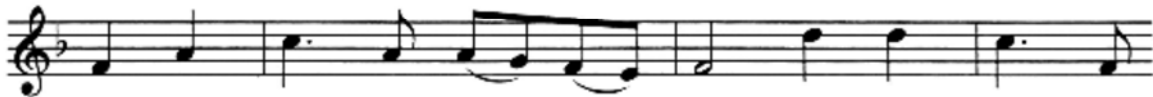
Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and
3. And through all his won - drous child - hood He would hon - or
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re -



1. cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by
2. Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a sta - ble,
3. and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly maid - en
4. us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less,
5. deem - ing love; For that child so dear and gen - tle



1. In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
2. And his cra - dle was a stall. With the poor and
3. In whose gen - tle arms he lay. Chris - tian chil - dren
4. Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feels for
5. Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: And he leads his



1. moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.
2. mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
3. all should be Kind, o - be - dient, good as he.
4. all our sad - ness, And he shares in all our glad - ness.
5. chil - dren on To the place where he has gone.

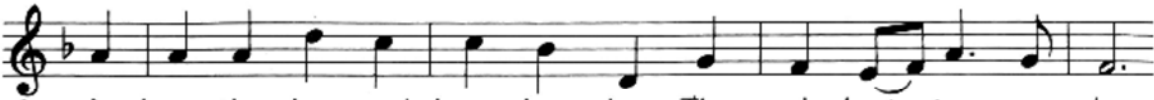
Text: 87 87 77; Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1818-1895, alt. Music: Henry I. Gauntlett. 1805-1876



O Little Town of Bethlehem



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
2. While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
4. Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



1. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light:
2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
4. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



1. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
2. And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
3. Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
4. O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, alt. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.



*Our deepest gratitude to all who played a special role in
this Christmas Celebration including our bishop,
priests, deacons and staff of St. Peter Cathedral.*

*We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the musicians
for sharing their many talents and gifts with us on this
festive Christmas day.*

*Finally, we thank you, the parish family of
St. Peter Cathedral for your ongoing support,
dedication and most of all your prayers.*

*May all of you have a
Blessed and Holy Christmas Season*

* * *

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Bishop's photos courtesy of Mark Fainstein

