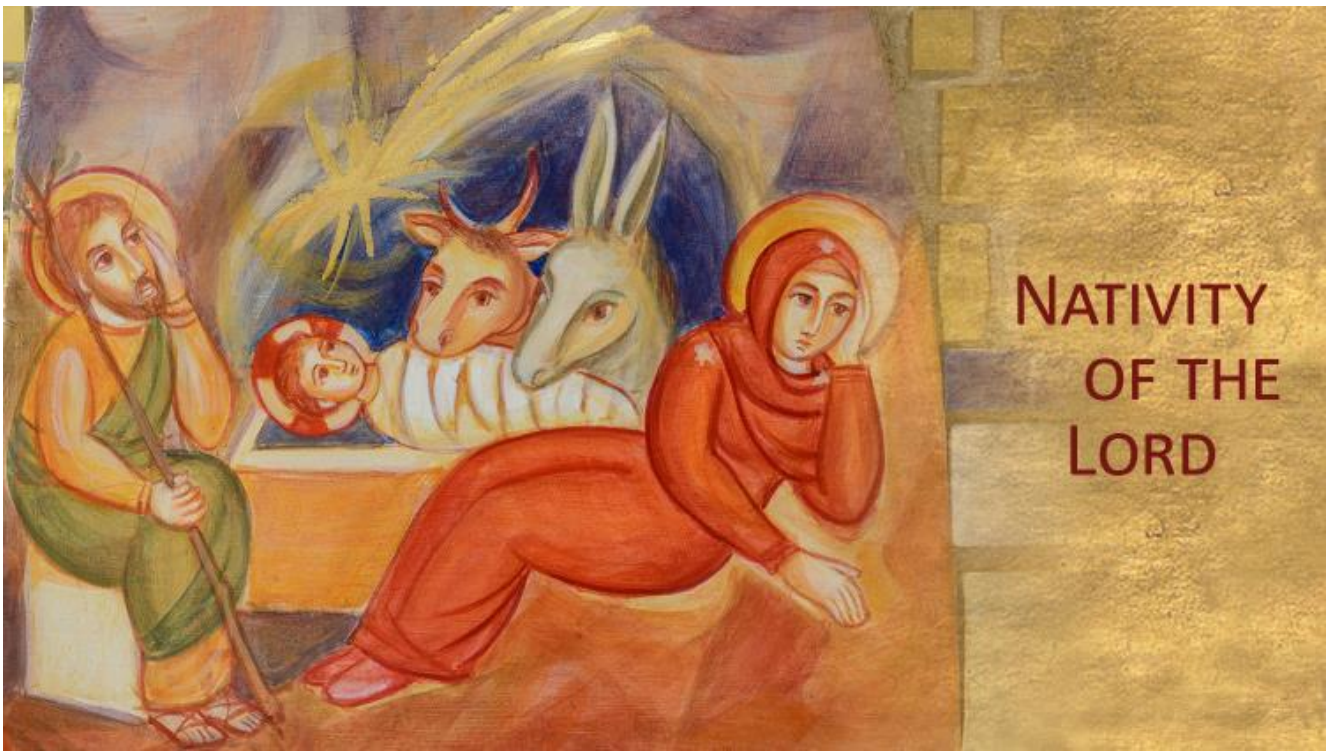
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio



Sunday, December 24, 2023

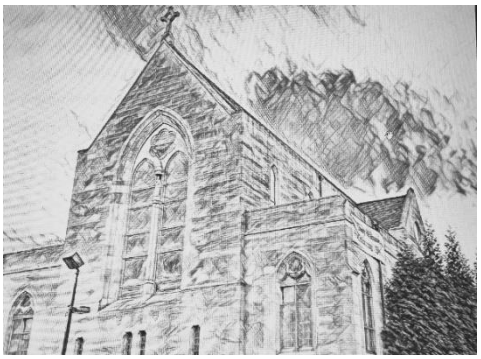
Christmas Eve: Nativity of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist Rite II
7:00p

Welcome to St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



Our mission
St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

Christmas Eve: Nativity of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Readings and Psalm
First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm: Psalm 96
Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Choral Prelude:

- *The Linden Tree* 14th Century German Melody arr Crawford Thoburn
- *Coventry Carol* arr. Martin Shaw
- *Cradle Song* Grayston Ives
- *Hark, What Good News* Georg Kuhn arr. Crawford Thoburn
- *Shepherds, Raise Your Sleepy Heads* Thomas Morley

Lighting of the Christ Candle: *(see bulletin insert)*

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN: ***"O come, all Ye Faithful" (Adeste fideles) (H 83)***

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

Refrain

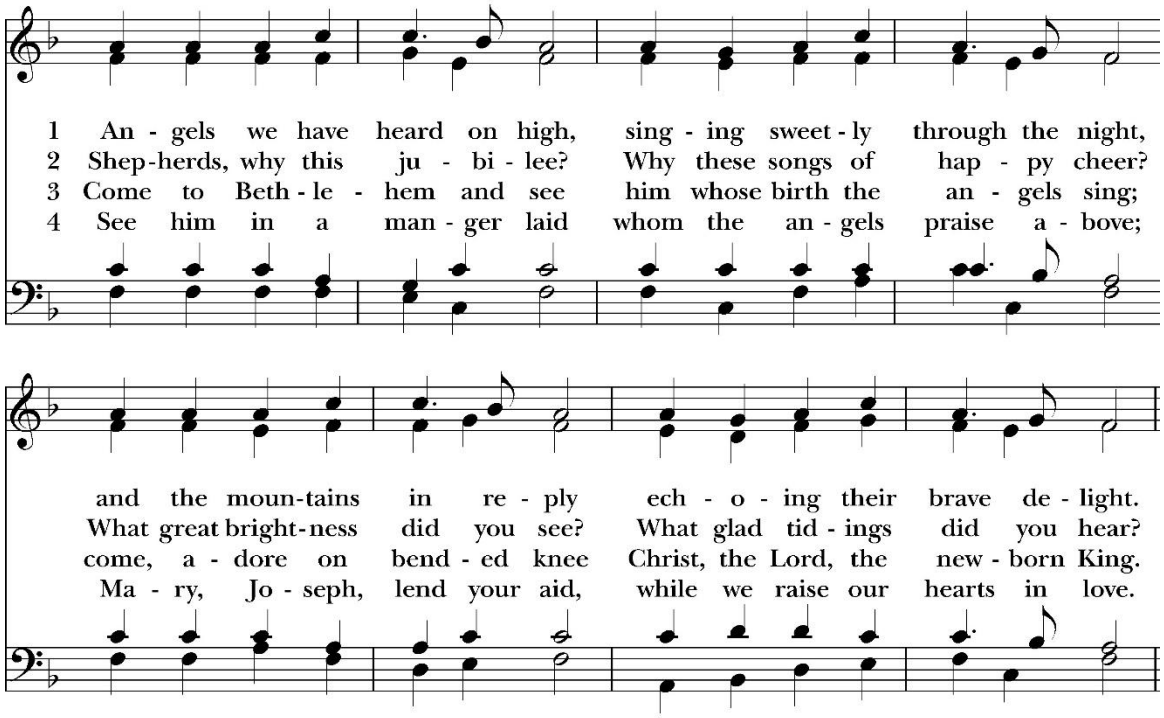
OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

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.

SONG OF PRAISE: *"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Gloria) (H 96)*



THE 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.***

The Lessons

The people sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[2]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.
[3]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.
[4]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.
[5]For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
[6]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.
[7]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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Remain seated.

[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.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

Remain seated.

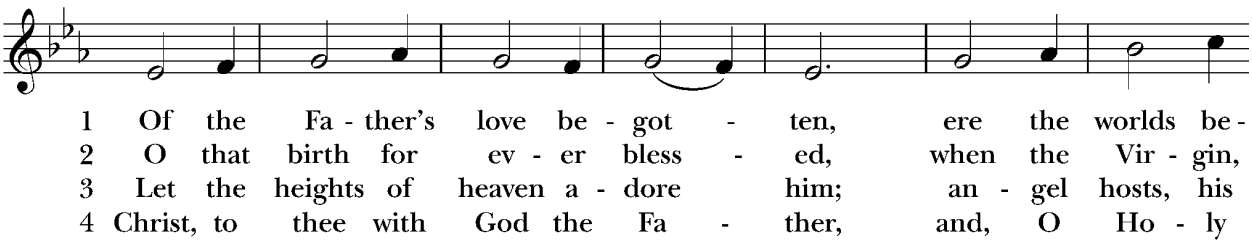
A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

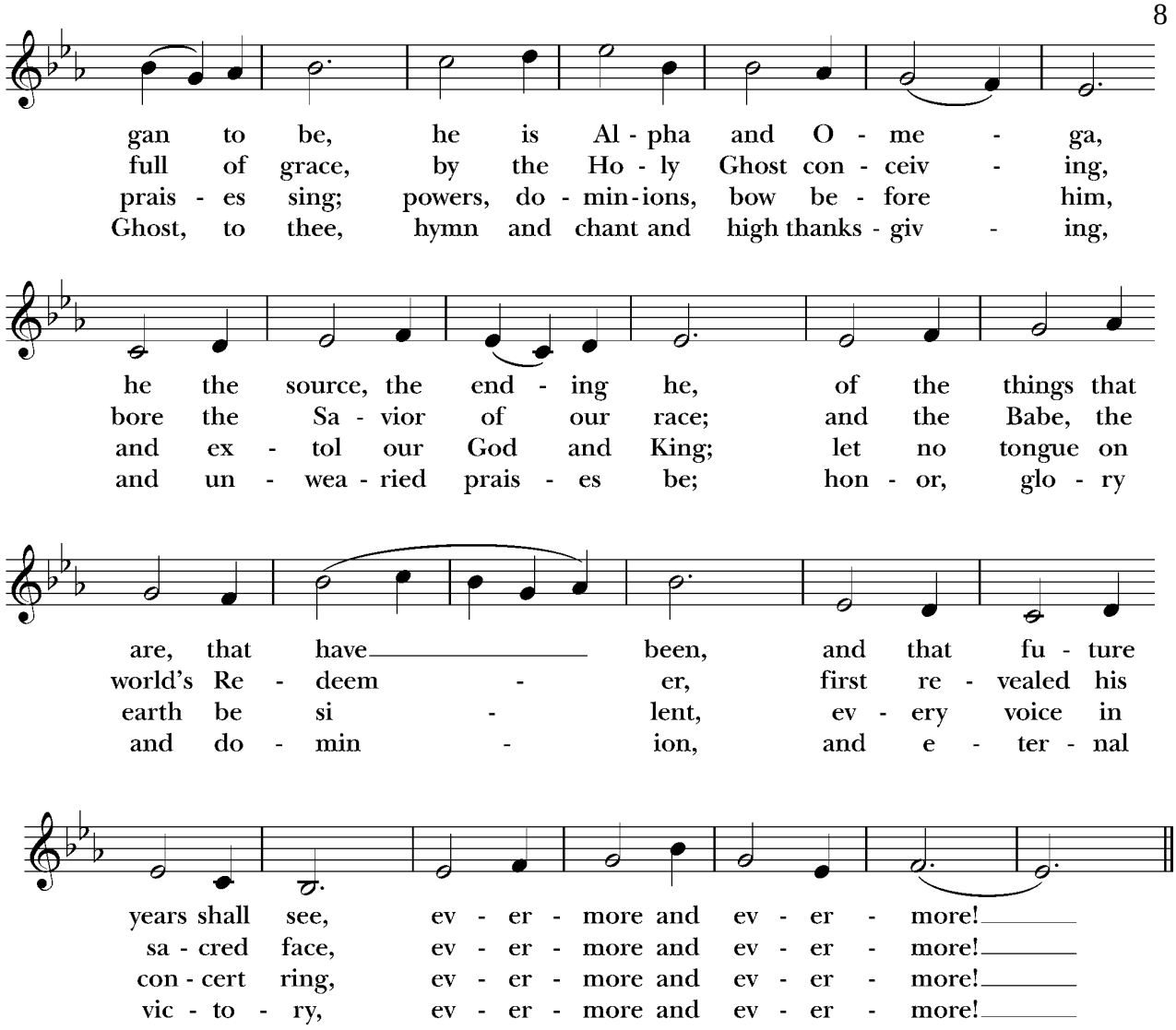
[11]The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, [12]training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, [13]while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. [14]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.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (Divinum mysterium) (H 82)*

All stand.





This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩♩♩♩

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[1]In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2]This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]All went to their own towns to be registered. [4]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. [5]He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

[6]While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. [7]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.

[8]In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10]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: [11]to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12]This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." [13]And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

[14]"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

THE SERMON: *Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry*

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

THE 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.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

YOUR INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS ARE INVITED

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Celebrant: Mighty God, mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

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

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
Psalm 96:9

OFFERTORY HYMN*: "Still, Still, Still" (Norman Luboff)*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.

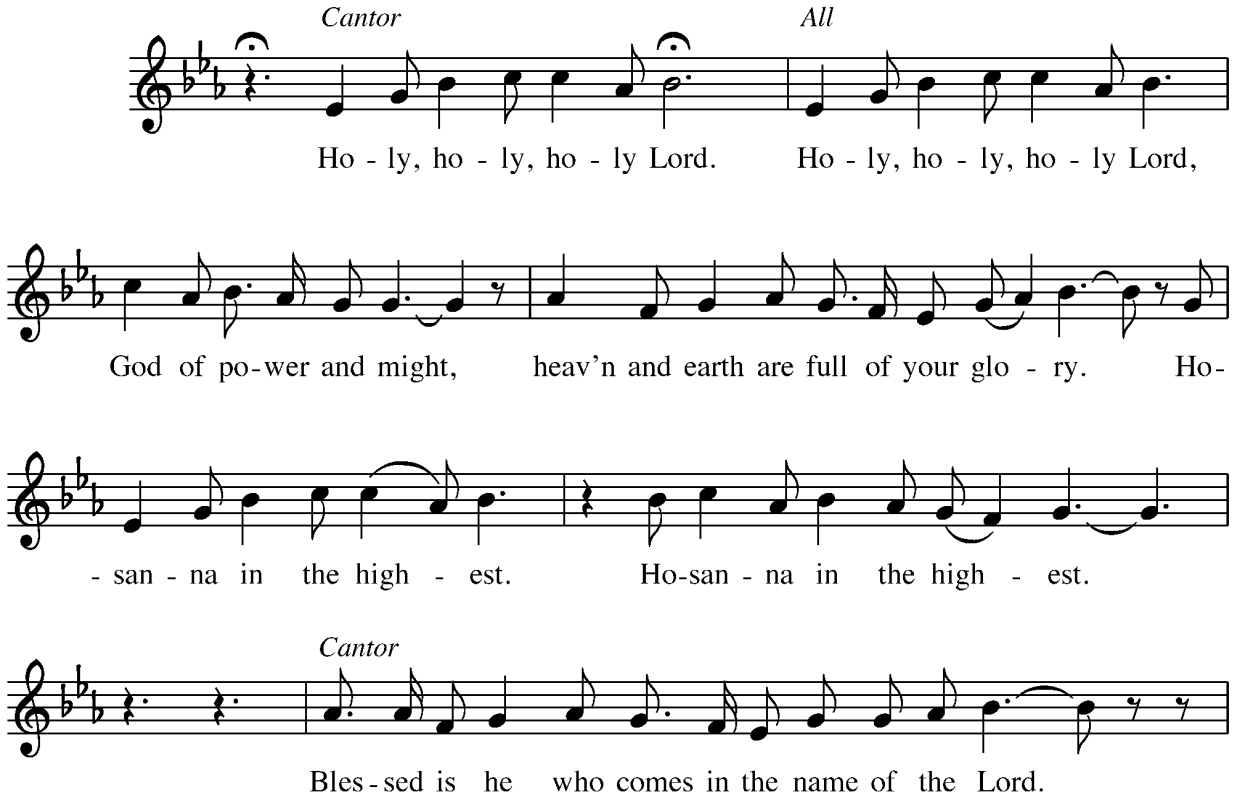
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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: ***"Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Boles) EOM2 125***
Celebrant and People



Setting: Frank W. Boles © 2002 Frank W. Boles based on *Conditor alme siderum*.
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Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.***

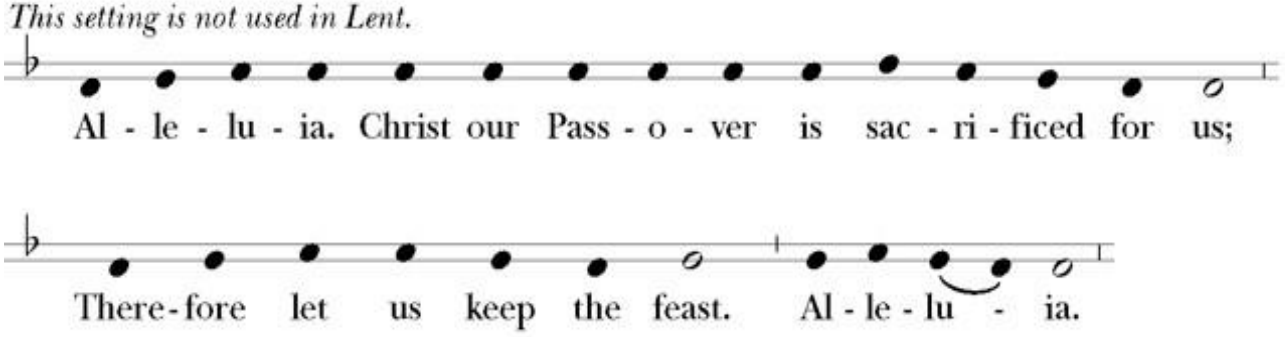
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: Christ Our Passover (S 152)



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.

COMMUNION HYMN: *"Once in Royal David's City (Irby) (H 102)*

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.

Post-Communion Hymn is sung by candlelight. Please pass the light by tipping your unit candle to another's flame. Please sit or kneel once your candle is lit.

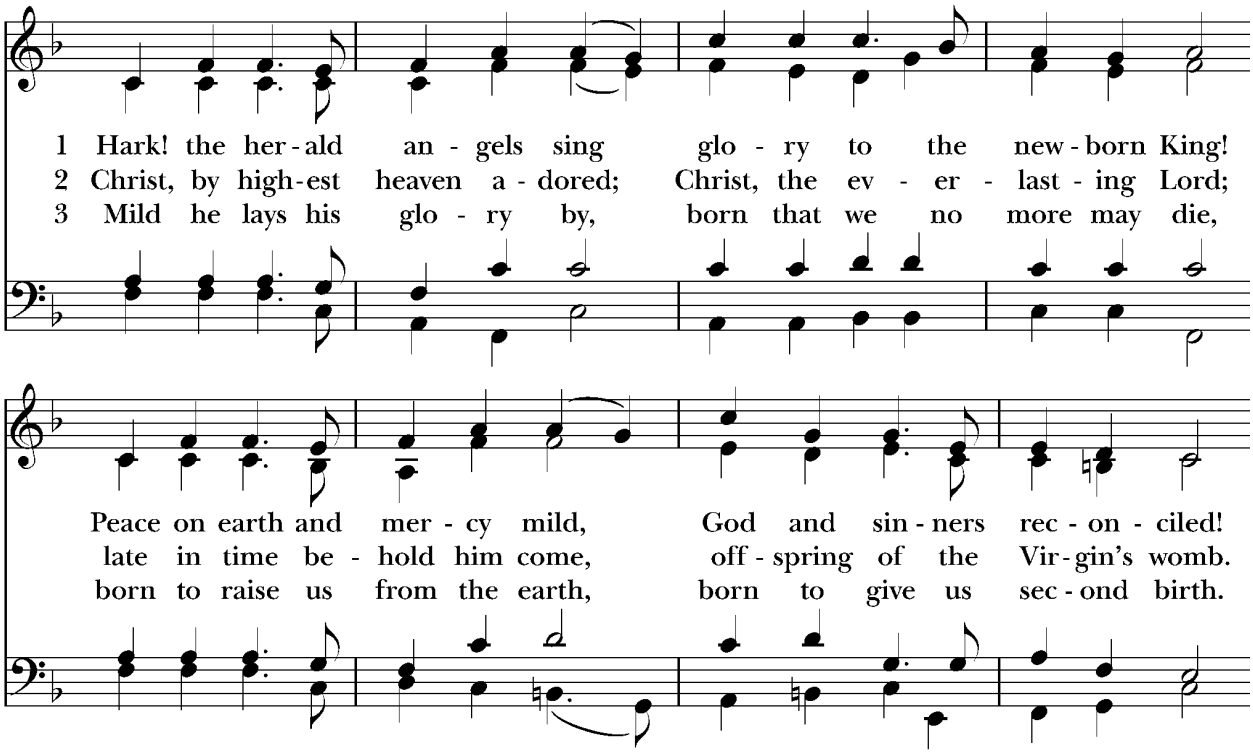
POST-COMMUNION HYMN: ***"Silent Night, Holy Night" (Stille Nacht) (H 111)***

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
Let us pray together

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

BLESSING
Go in the joy and wonder of the greatest gift ever given, the birth of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, God with Us. May the love of God be with you. May God hold you in the light of love. May God fill you with grace. May God bless you and keep you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen! So be it!

RECESSIONAL HYMN: ***"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (Mendelssohn) (H 87)***



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on *In dulci jubilo* J. S. Bach

<u>Participants in Today's Liturgy:</u>

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry
Director of Music:	Edward T. Grimes
Lector:	M.L. Schultze
Crucifer:	Karl Roshong
Thurifer:	Douglas Colmery
Camera/Audio:	David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Altar Guild:	Barbara Anderson, Karen Swope
Torchbearers:	Demetrius Carrothers, M.L. Schultze

Refreshments will be served immediately following the service!

Rev. Robin, the Vestry, and the Staff of St. Paul's wish you and yours a very

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne B. Jolly

Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dr. Robin Woodberry

Staff
Edward T. Grimes, Director of Music

Peggy Neidig, Office Manager

Paul Schmucker, Sexton

Music Begins Sunday Services at 10:25am are also live-streamed on Facebook.

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