

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



HIGH MASS

On Christmas Morning

Thursday, 25th December, 2025
11am

§ *All stand when the bell rings.*

CHRISTIANS awake! salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring you tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations on the earth:
This day hath God fulfilled His promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

He spake; and straightaway that celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heaven's whole orb with alleluyas rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth, and unto men goodwill.

To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
Joyful, the wondrous story they proclaim-
The first apostles of his infant fame.

Like Mary let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;
Then may we hope, angelic thrones among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.

John Byrom, 1691-1763

YORKSHIRE

John Wainwright, 1723-1768

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel. Isaiah 9.5

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

In the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, **we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life to the glory of thy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MASS SETTING **MISSA SANCTI JOANNIS DE DEO**

Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

§ *All sit when the celebrant has intoned the Gloria.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

§ *All stand.*

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§ *All sit.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 52.7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song : for he hath done marvellous things. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm : hath he gotten himself the victory. The Lord declared his salvation : his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel : and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands : sing, rejoice, and give thanks. Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving. With trumpets also, and shawms : O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is : the round world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord : for he is come to judge the earth. With righteousness shall he judge the world : and the people with equity.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 1.1-6*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL *St John 1.1-14*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A hallowed day hath dawned upon the earth; come ye nations, and worship the Lord: for on this day a great Light hath descended upon the earth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

§ *All genuflect.*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

§ *All stand.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

§ *All sit.*

HOMILY

Fr Alan Rimmer

The Assistant Priest

§ *All stand to sing the Creed.*

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,

§ *All genuflect.*

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,

§ *All stand.*

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

§ *All sit.*

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Salvator apparuit. Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli. Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Alleluia.

Today Christ is born. Today the Saviour appears. Today angels sing to the earth, Archangels rejoice. Today the just rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia.

Medieval paraphrase of
Luke 2.11, 13-14 & Psalm 33.1

Jan Sweelinck, 1562-1621

§ *All stand.*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

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

We beseech thee, O Lord: that by this new birth of thine Only Begotten Son thou wouldst vouchsafe to sanctify these our oblations, and to cleanse us from the defilement of all our iniquities; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

§ *The celebrant sings the preface.*

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory, Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

§ *All kneel. The Canon of the Mass follows.*

Great is the Mystery of Faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

§ *The Canon concludes: Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.*

THE COMMUNION RITE

§ *The celebrant introduces the Lord's Prayer, which is sung by all.*

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. [x2]

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

§ *As the choir sings the Agnus, the celebrant shows the consecrated host to the people:*

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

§ *All reply.*

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

§ *Anyone baptized in the name of the Trinity may receive Holy Communion. Low-gluten hosts are available at the Lady Altar, which also avoids the steps.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God. Isaiah 40.5

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

**WHAT child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,
His love all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
All tongues and people own him,
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let every heart enthrone Him:
Raise, raise your song on high
While Mary sings a lullaby,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the son of Mary.**

W. Chatterton Dix, 1837-1898

GREENSLEEVES

Traditional English Melody

§ *All stand.*

O God our Father, whose Word hath come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: grant that the light of faith may illumine our hearts and shine in all our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

May God, who at the Incarnation brought together the realms of earth and heaven, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

And may the blessing of God almighty, the ☩ Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

§ *As the Sacred Ministers process to the Crib, all sing:*

A GREAT and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure!

A Virgin bears the Infant

With virgin-honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!

‘To God on high be glory, and peace on earth to men!’

The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high!

And Cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky. *Repeat the hymn again...*

While thus they sing your Monarch,

Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,

Ye oceans clap your hands. *Repeat the hymn again...*

Since all he comes to ransom,

By all be he adored,

The Infant born in Bethl’em,

The Saviour and the Lord. *Repeat the hymn again...*

All idols forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.

Repeat the hymn again!

‘To God on high be glory, and peace on earth to men!’

Greek, St Germanus, 634-734

Tr J.M. Neale, 1818-1866

ES IST EIN’ ROS’ ENTSPRUNGEN

German Carol Melody

Harmonised by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

THE ANGELUS

THE Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour
of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to pour forth thy grace into our hearts, that, as we
have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel,
so, by his ☩ Cross and Passion, may we be brought unto the glory of his
Resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY TOCCATA

From Symphonie No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor, 1844-1937

Happy Christmas, and welcome to All Saints’, especially if you are visiting.

Friday, 26th December

St Stephen, Protomartyr

12noon Low Mass

Saturday, 27th September

St John the Evangelist

12noon Low Mass; 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, 28th December

THE HOLY FAMILY

8.30am Low Mass; 11am Solemn Mass

Victoria | Vaughan Williams | Messiaen

Sunday, 4th January 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

11am High Mass; 6pm Epiphany Carol Service

Lassus | Leighton | Meador | Bull | Summerson

Tuesday, 6th January 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

12noon Low Mass; 6.30pm High Mass

Mozart | Handl



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,
or by using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*