

Carol Prelude Service

After the Choir enters the Chancel, the service begins with the following Bidding Prayer

Let us pray.

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmas celebration, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us hear again the tale of the love purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praise let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father....

Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

Hymn – **Once in Royal David's City** arr. Mann/Willcocks

1) *Solo*

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2) *Choir only*

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy

3) *Congregation and Choir*

And at last our eyes shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he has gone.

4) *Congregation and Choir*

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:18-23)

All this time – William Walton

1. This night there is a Child yborn,
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn;
We must sing and say therefore:

CHORUS: *ALL THIS TIME THIS SONG IS BEST: "VERBUM CARO
FACTUM EST."*

2. Jesus is the Childes name
And Mary mild is His dame,
All our sorrow is turned to game:¹

CHORUS

3. It fell upon high midnight,
The stars shone both fair and bright,
The angels sang with all their might:
CHORUS

4. Now kneel we down on our knee,
And pray we to the Trinity,
Our help, our succor for to be.
CHORUS

Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:7-11)

Anthem - **Ding dong! merrily on high – arr. Charles Wood**

1. Ding dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with Angel singing.

REFRAIN: *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

2. E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,

And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.
REFRAIN

3. Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
REFRAIN

Anthem – **Angels from the realms of Glory – arr. Reginal Jacques**

1. Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight over all the earth
Ye, who sang Creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching over your flocks by night
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant light:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great Desire of Nations
Ye have seen His natal star:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

5. Though an infant, now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Anthem - **Sir Christèmas – William Mathias**

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so, *nowell...*?
I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less
Come near, *Nowell...*

Dieu vous gardez, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:
A maid hath borne a child full young,

which causeth you to sing: *Nowell...*

Christ is now born of a pure maid;
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Whereof sing we alle at a brayed: *Nowell...*

Buvez bien par toute la companie
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully: *Nowell...*

Hymn – *The First Nowell*

Old English Carol

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winder's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel*

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And so the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Nowell...*

3. This star drew night to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay;

Nowell...

4. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell...

The Order for Holy Communion

The Feast of The Nativity

The Prelude – *Es ist ein 'Ros' entsprungen*, op.122, no. 8 – Johannes Brahms
(*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*)

The Processional Hymn – *O Come, all ye faithful* Tune: *Adeste Fideles*

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels;

Refrain – *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created; *Refrain*

4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest; *Refrain*

3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

The Introit: *All men draw near* – **Zoltan Kodaly**

*All men draw near, Christmas is here, All the welkin rings. Tell the story Sing all glory To the King of kings
He who of old Prophets foretold Now is come to birth. Come one and all To the ox stall: He brings peace on earth!
See where the star, Gleaming afar Guides us through the dark. Tell the story Of his glory, Christ by all adored.
Song upraising, Praise him, praise him, All men praise the Lord. Babe all holy, Whom all lowly Ox and ass adore.
Bless our cattle, Bless our harvest, Bless each house and store. Jesu, hear us, Christ, be near us Make us holy.
With joyful praise Fill all our days, Hear us when we call. Amen.*

Then shall the Priest, standing reverently before the Altar, say the Collect for Purity, the people kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then may the Priest say,

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Then the Choir sings –

The Kyrie eleison – *Setting: Collegium Regale* – Herbert Howells

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Here shall be said,

The Lord be with you.
Answer. **And with thy spirit.**
Minister. Let us pray

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 the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **AMEN.**

After the Collect shall be read the first lesson, the people being seated.

The Epistle - Titus ii.11 **Book of Common Prayer** p. 98

The Psalm - 85:8-13 **Book of Common Prayer** p. 446
Anglican Chant – George C. Martin

Then shall all the People stand, and the Choir continue with

The Gradual: Tecum principium, Psalm 110:3,1 – Plainchant

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship: the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning. V. The Lord said unto my Lord; Sit thou on my right hand; until I make thine enemies thy footstool

The Alleluia: Dominus dixit ad me, Psalm 2:7 – Plainchant

ALLELUIA. Alleluia. V. The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Alleluia

Then, all the People standing, the Minister appointed shall read the Gospel, first saying,

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (ii.1.)

B.C.P. p. 98

Here shall be said,

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

And after the Gospel is said,

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Then shall be said the Creed commonly called the Nicene.

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

Sermon Hymn – *Good Christian Men Rejoice* – Tune: Divinium mysterium

1) Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

He hath oped the heavenly door,
And man is blessèd evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

2) Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!

3) Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Here followeth the Sermon, the People being seated

The Rev'd Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC, Rector of St. John's Church, Detroit

Then followeth the Sermon. After which, the Priest shall return to the Holy Table, and begin the Offertory, saying one or more of these Sentences following, as he thinketh most convenient.

***The Offertory: Laetentur Caeli*, Psalm 96:11 – Plainchant**

LET the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad: before the Lord, for he is come.

The ushers shall receive the Alms other Offerings of the People. And the Priest shall then offer, and shall place upon the Holy Table, the Bread and the Wine. And when the Alms and Oblations are being received, and the Priest is preparing the altar, the Choir shall sing

The Offertory Anthem: He is born, the divine Child – John Rutter

Chorus: *Born on earth the divine Christ child*

Oboes rejoice with bagpipes vying

Born on earth the divine Christ child

Sing to welcome the savior mild

1. 'Tis four thousand years and more
Men his birth have been prophesying
'Tis four thousand years and more
While we longed for the joys in store.

2. Ah! such beauty and charm adore!

Ah such perfection of grace undying

Ah such beauty and charm adore!

Promised us in days of yore.

Chorus

3. In a stable here on earth,
Jesus in a manger lying,
In a stable here on earth
Oh how lowly our savior's birth!
Chorus

4. O Jesus savior heaven's Lord
Tiny child in a manger crying,
O Jesus, savior heaven's Lord
Christ our King for evermore.
Chorus

And when the Alms and Oblations are being received and presented, there will be sung the following hymn

The Doxology – Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then shall the Priest say,

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [*alms and*] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and con-cord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Here you may add silently the names of those for whom you wish to pray.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and all the saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Then shall the Priest say to those who come to receive the Holy Communion,

YE who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Then shall this General Confession be made, by the Priest and all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, humbly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Priest stand up, and turning to the People, say,

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall the Priest say,

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matt. xi. 28.*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John iii. 16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John ii. 1, 2.*

After which the Priest shall proceed, singing,

Priest The Lord be with you

Answer **And with thy spirit**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

Answer. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then shall the Priest turn to the Holy Table, and sing,

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Then shall be sung

The Sanctus and Benedictus—Setting: Collegium Regale – Herbert Howells

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.

When the Priest, standing before the Holy Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more readiness and decency break the Bread before the People, and take the Cup into his hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth.

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

WHEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

AND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanks-giving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain re-mission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

To which the congregation responds loudly **Amen.**

Then shall the priest process to the pace to light the Christ Candle and place the figure of the Christ Child in the Creche, while the people sing

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,	The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.	But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,	I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.	And stay by my side until morning is nigh. Amen.

Then shall the Ministers return to the Altar where the Priest shall say

Let us pray. And now, as our Saviour Christ hath 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table, say, in the name of all those who shall receive the Communion, this Prayer following. The congregation may join in the saying of this prayer.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Then the Choir shall sing

The Agnus Dei, - Setting: Collegium Regale – Herbert Howells

*Then shall the Priest First receive the Holy Communion in both kinds him self, and proceed to deliver the same to the People also in order, all devoutly kneeling.
And when he delivereth the Bread/Wine he shall say,*

THE Body (*Blood*) of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given (*shed*) for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this (*Drink this*) in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving (*and be thankful*).

The Communion Anthem: *Infant Holy* – Arr. David Willcocks

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

The Communion Hymn: *O little town of Bethlehem* – Phillips Brooks

1) O little town of Bethlehem!
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2) For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

CHOIR ONLY

3) *How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.*

4) O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel! Amen.

***The Communion: In splendoribus, Psalm 110:3* – Plainchant**

THE dew of thy birth: is of the womb of the morning

Then shall the Priest say,

Let us pray.

And then, with the people shall continue,

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

Then shall all stand and sing

The Gloria in excelsis – Setting: *Old Scottish Chant* – Hymnal 1940 #739

GLORY be to God on high, and on 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.

Then all shall kneel, the Ministers kneeling at the Creche. And once the handheld candles have all been lighted shall be sung

Silent Night – Tune: Holy Night

ALL
1) Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

CHOIR ONLY
2. *Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly Host sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!*

ALL
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Amen.

Then, the People still kneeling, the Priest shall let them depart with this Blessing.

THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Afterwards the priest says

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

To which the congregation responds

Thanks be to God.

The Recessional Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing – Tune: Mendelssohn, arr. Willcocks

1) 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 hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

3. Hail the heav'n-born
Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

The Postlude: Toccata (from *Symphonie V*, Op. 42 – Charles-Marie Widor