



Saint Thomas More
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Mass During the Day)

DECEMBER 25, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.



A Message from Our Pastor

Welcome to the beautiful feast day of Christmas at Saint Thomas More! On behalf of our community, I want to share my sincere gratitude for your presence at our liturgies this Christmas. Truly, your presence is your greatest gift to us.

Let the joy of this celebration fill your heart! Know that you are welcome at Saint Thomas More wherever you are on your faith journey. I encourage you to visit our website, subscribe to our weekly newsletter, and reach out to our staff for current opportunities to get involved.

Thank you to our faithful parishioners who bring these Christmas liturgies to life! We are forever grateful for the light you share with Saint Thomas More.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas season!



Fr. R.J. Fichtinger, sj
Fr. R.J. Fichtinger, S.J.

www.morecommunity.org

@StThomasMoreStPaul



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Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music by Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow,
Snow on snow.
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav’n cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heav’n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter,
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
Worship night and day.
A breast full of milk,
And a mangerful of hay,
Enough for Him, whom angels,
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Introit

A child is born for us, a son is given to us;
his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.
Cf. Isaiah 9:5

Processional

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Composer unknown (probably 18th century)

Arranged by David Willcocks

Translated by F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke, and others

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:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
 O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest;
 O come...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
 O come...

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you. (or similar phrase)

All: **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Act

Mass of Joy and Peace

Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:



(Invocation) Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:



(Invocation) Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.

Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:



(Invocation) Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

Music: *Mass of Joy and Peace*, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Glory to God

Mass of St. Benedict

All:



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to
peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your
great glo-ry, Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y

The music is continued on the following page.

Cantor/Choir or All:

Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a -
way the 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
All:
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, a - men, a - men.

Text: The Roman Missal, © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Music: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict, Robert LeBlanc, © 2010.

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Collect

Priest: ...God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 98



All the ends of the earth have seen the sav - ing pow'r of God.

Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken to us through the Son.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Mass for John Carroll



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: *Mass for John Carroll*, Michael Joncas, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Gospel

John 1:1-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Response before the Gospel:

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the Gospel:

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Rev. Peter Etzel, S.J.

Profession of Faith

The 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,

(KNEEL during the following two lines.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
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.

Universal Prayer

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

St. Thomas More relies on the generosity of its beloved parishioners and many welcome guests. In addition to the collection basket, contributions may be made online by visiting www.morecommunity.org/give.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

“Joy to the World” from “A Christmas Triptych”

Arranged by Richard Proulx, 1937-2010

Words by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune ANTIOCH, Attr. to George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Please join the choir in song:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Sung by the choir alone:

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Please join the choir in song:

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

All: **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.**

Preface

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

A Community Mass

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.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, GIA Publications, Inc.

Memorial Acclamation

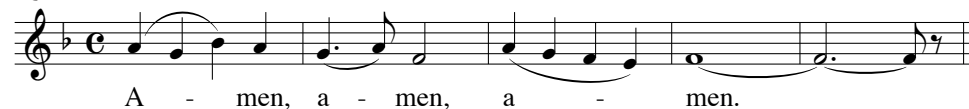


When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1988, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Great Amen

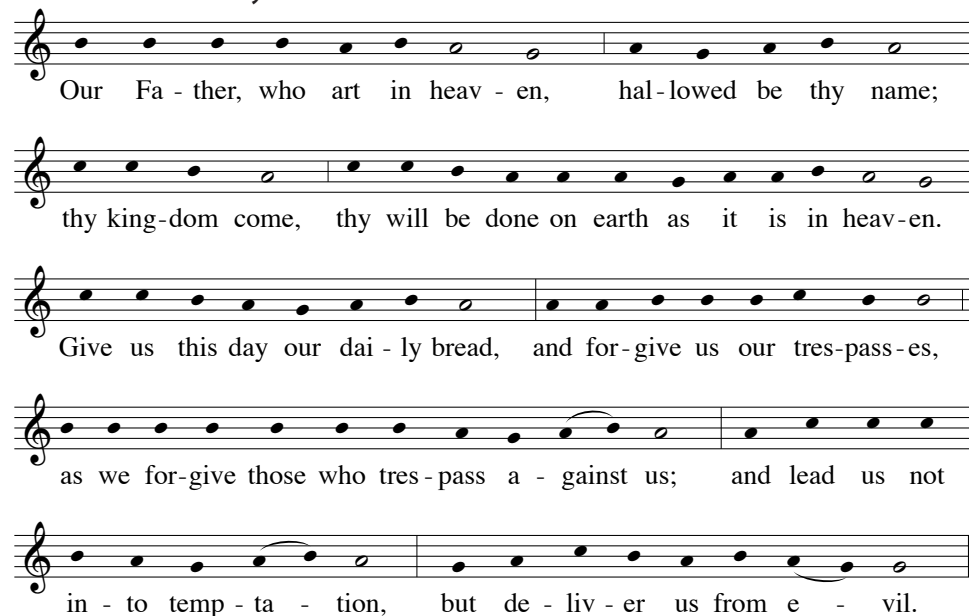


A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (adapt.), © 1971, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

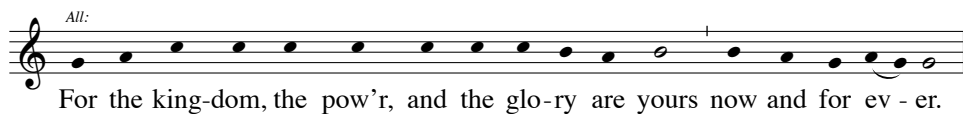
The Lord's Prayer

Priest: At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:



Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name;
thy king - dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not
in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord...and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

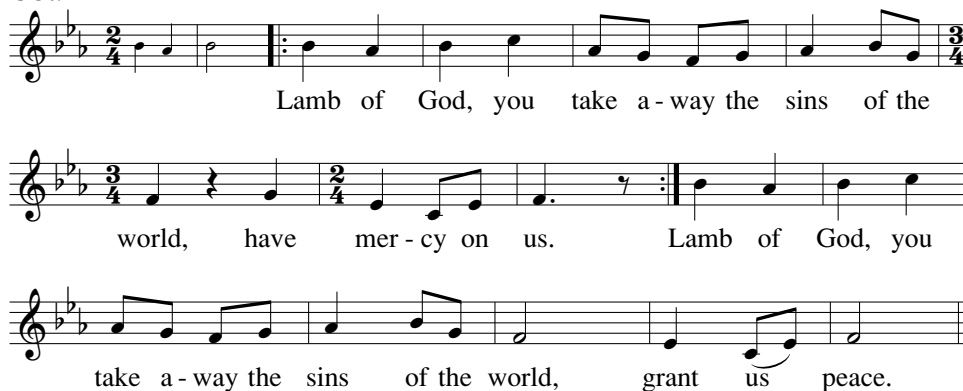


Sign of Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Lamb of God



Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **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

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Cf. Psalm 98:3

Communion Song

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all
From heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the heav’nly hymn have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And warring humankind hears not
The tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
And hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

Reflection

“Ave Maris Stella”
by Philip W. Stopford

Hail, Star of the Sea,
Loving Mother of God,
And Virgin immortal,
Heaven’s blissful portal!

Break the chains of sinners,
Bring light to the blind,
Drive away our evils,
And ask for all good things.

Receiving that “Ave”
From the mouth of Gabriel,
Reversing the name of “Eva,”
Establish us in peace.

Keep our life pure,
Make our journey safe,
So that, seeing Jesus,
We may rejoice together forever.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Priest: ...Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All: **Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

Please respond “Amen,” after each invocation.

Priest: ...and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: ...and make you heralds of his Gospel.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: ...and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace. (or similar phrase)

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

adapted by W.H. Cummings from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn

Descant and organ part by David Willcocks

Words by C. Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan, and others

The words may be found on the following page.

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Please as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.