

*St Mary's*



***Christmas Day Choral Eucharist  
Wednesday 25 December 2024, 9am***



*Madonna & Child enthroned among angels & saints, Mt Sinai, 6<sup>th</sup> century*

***Welcome to St Mary's North Melbourne  
for this celebration of the birth of Our Lord.***

*Please join us in singing the hymns  
and saying those parts of the service printed in **bold type**.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The story of the birth of Jesus stands at the heart of Christian faith. It celebrates God coming among us as one of us. It brings hope for the world and creation, and calls us to live in God's love revealed in Jesus. Let us therefore worship God.

*A bell rings as a signal for all to stand as the service begins*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 303

Refrain

*Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born king.*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'. *Response*
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,

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late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. *Response*

3. Hail the heaven-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 need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Response*

Charles Wesley 1707–88 and others. Reproduced with permission

## GREETING

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

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
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.**

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## CONFESSION

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
**forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son, our Saviour, was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
**forgive and heal us.**

The Shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
**forgive and heal us.**

## ABSOLUTION

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the word 'Gloria', with a long slur over the notes. The second staff contains the melody for the words 'in excelsis Deo', with a slur over the notes 'Deo'.

Glo ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o o.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim our love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah:**

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. *(Isaiah 9:2-7)*

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

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## PSALM 98, ROGER HEAGNEY



All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song, a new song to the Lord for God has worked wonders. God's right hand and holy arm have brought salvation. *Response.*

God has made known the saving power, shown justice to the nations. God has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel. *Response*

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.  
Sing to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy! *Response*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music, with trumpets and sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. *Response*



'Singing Pierides' by Henry Stacy Marks (1829-1898), c. 1859-1862, Ashmolean Museum Oxford, WA1933.26

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:**

At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things

and through whom he made the ages. He is the reflection of God's glory and bears the impress of God's own being, sustaining all things by his powerful command; and now that he has purged sins away, he has taken his seat at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

*(Hebrews 1:1-4, NJB)*

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL HYMN

TIS 318

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, key of F major. The first staff has chords F, C7, F, Gm, C7. The second staff has chords F, G7, C, F. The third staff has chords Cm, D, Gm, C7, F, Gm, C7, F.

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

vv. 1-2, Anon. ?1885, v.3, Anon. ?1892. Arrangement © L. F. Bartlett. Reproduced with permission

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## GOSPEL READING

*Please remain standing for the Gospel*



The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 in the guest room. Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!’

*(Luke 2:1-14)*

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



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## SERMON

### CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(The Apostles' Creed)*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers:

**Grant that what we have asked in faith,  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### PEACE

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

# OFFERTORY HYMN

TIS 312

C F C F Dm F C  
F C F C F Dm F C  
F Bb F C7 F Bb F C7 F

1. 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. 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, despised and  
lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all his wondrous  
childhood,  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last 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 is gone.
5. 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,  
when his children gather round  
bright, like stars, with glory  
crowned.


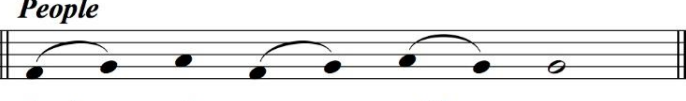




Cecil Frances Alexander 1818–95 *alt.* Reproduced with permission

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

# GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## Sursum Corda

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>The Lord be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And also with you.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them to the Lord.</p>
<p><i>Celebrant</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>

All glory and honour, thanks and praise ...  
 ... for every praising you and singing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

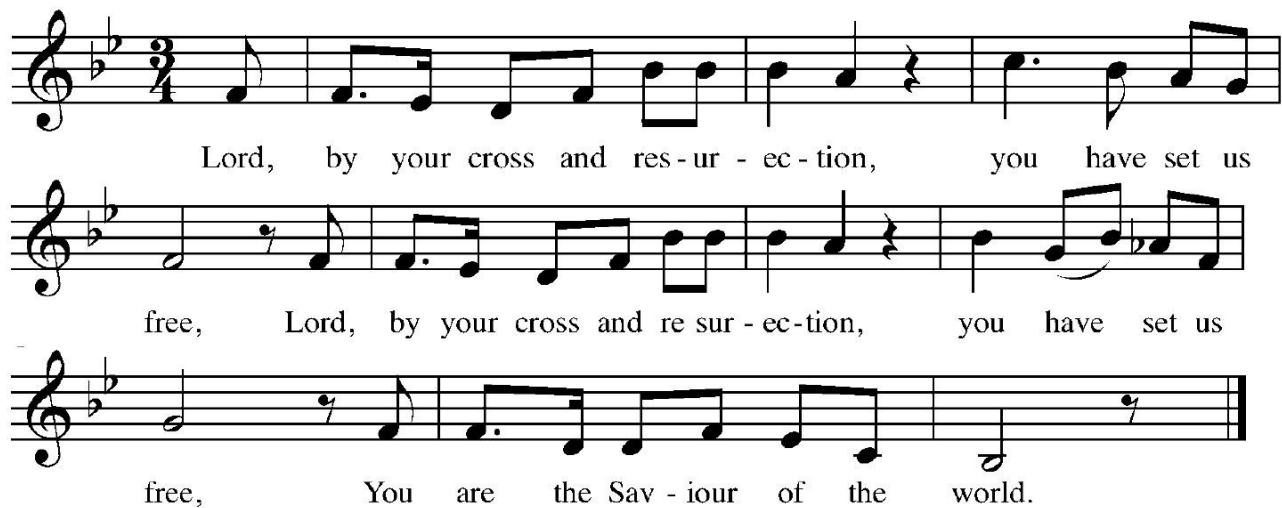
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho -

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

Merciful God ...

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Lord, by your cross and res - ur - ec - tion, you have set us  
free, Lord, by your cross and re sur - ec - tion, you have set us  
free, You are the Sav - iour of the world.

Therefore we do ...

... we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



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

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

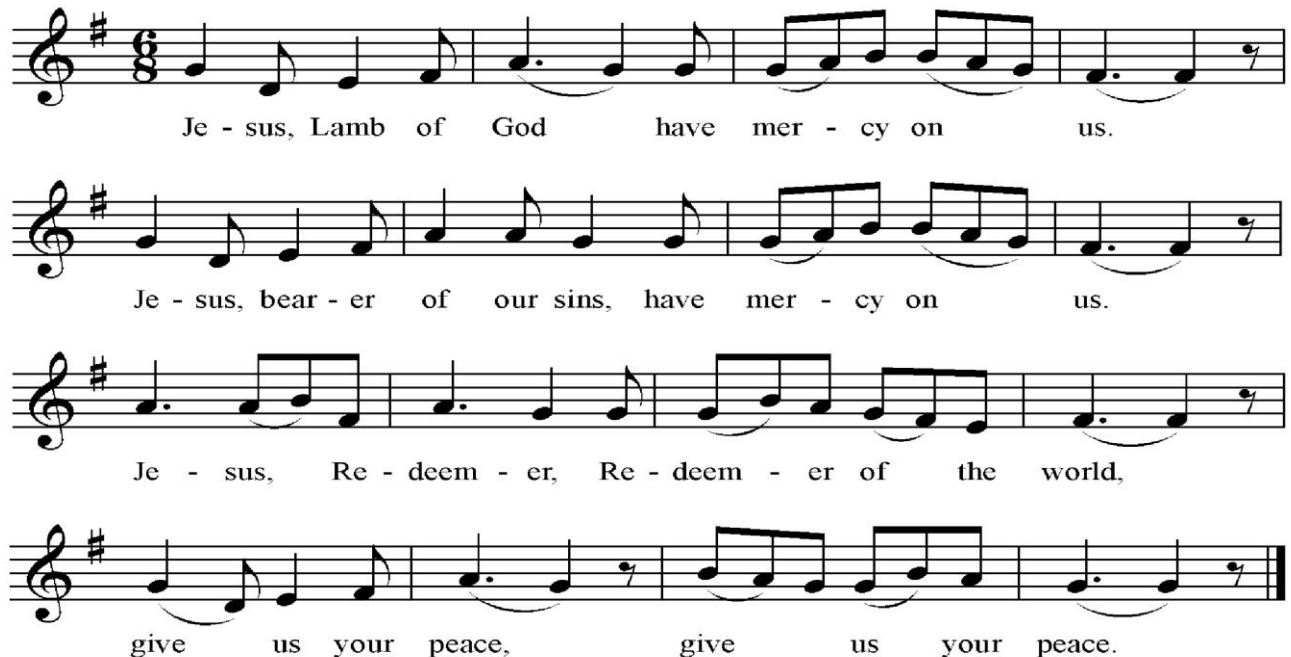
## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

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Though we are many, we are one body:  
**because we all share in one bread.**

## LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,

give us your peace, give us your peace.

## COMMUNION

*If you are baptised, you are welcome to come forward and receive this Holy Sacrament. If not, you are welcome to come and receive a blessing.*

ANTHEM: 'Gesu Bambino' by Pietro Yon, arr. Schweizer, violin:  
Elizabeth Brookes.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Most loving God, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

## FINAL HYMN

TIS 304

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves are the main melody, and the fourth and fifth staves are the refrain. The lyrics are: 'come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!'. The chords are: (G), Am7 D, G, Em, Am7 D, Em, A7, D, G, D, A7, D, D7, G, C, D7, G, Am, Am7, D, G, C, G, D, C, A7, D7, C, G, D, G.

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the king of angels: *Response*
2. True God of true God, Light of light eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created: *Response*
3. See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: *Response*
4. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Response*
5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest': *Response*
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing: *Response*

## BLESSING

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE: *'In Dulci Jubilo'* BWV 721 by JS Bach.



### Acknowledgements:

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If you would like to be contacted by the Parish, please fill in your details, tear this section and drop it in the box on the front porch:

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PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246