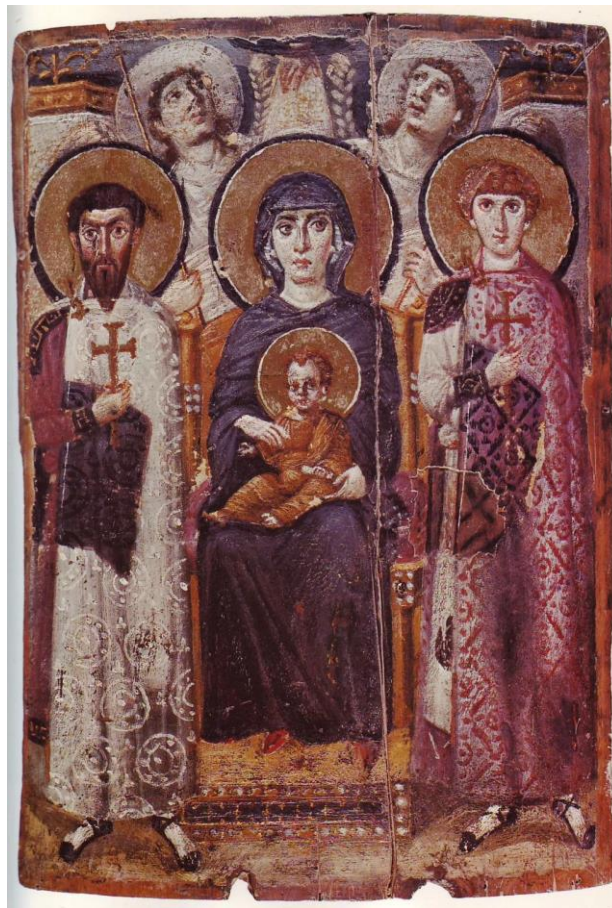


*St Mary's*



## ***Midnight Mass Sung Eucharist***

***Tuesday 24 December 2024, 11.30pm***



*Madonna & Child enthroned among angels & saints, Mt Sinai, 6th 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 becoming 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.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

NEH REV 28



1. The Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*
2. By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,
3. He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful law had  
sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,
4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,

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5. This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry,

6. Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,

7. Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,

*Evermore and evermore, Amen.*

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348–c.413 tr. John Mason Neale 1818–66, Henry Williams Baker 1827–77 and others Reproduced with permission*

## BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Sisters and brothers, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship the Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share God's life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;

may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who is alive and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## GREETING

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

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.**

## 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.

*Silence is kept*

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

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## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glo ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o o.

## COLLECT

Give us, O God, such love and wonder that,  
with shepherds and pilgrims unknown,  
we may come to adore the Holy Child, the promised King,  
and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
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. Great shall be his authority, 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 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.**

PSALM 96, CHRISTOPHER WILLCOCK

TIS 54

*Response*

General: O praise the Lord, all you na - tions, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christmas: To - day is born\_\_ a Sa - viour, Christ\_ the Lord;

General: Ac - claim the Lord, all you peo - ples, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christmas: to - day is born\_\_ a Sa - viour, Christ\_ the Lord.

*Verses*

1 O sing a new song to\_\_ the Lord,\_\_\_\_ sing to the  
 2 Pro - claim God's mer - cy day\_\_ by day.\_\_\_\_ Tell the Lord's  
 3 Let heaven and earth re - jice and be glad, the\_\_ sea and its  
 4 Let trees and fo - rests shout\_\_ for joy at the pre - sence of

1 Lord\_\_\_\_ all\_\_ the earth.\_\_\_\_ O sing to the  
 2 glo - ry a - mong\_\_ the na - tions, and won - ders a -  
 3 crea - tures\_\_ thun - der praise,\_\_\_\_ the land and its  
 4 God, for the Lord\_\_ is come,\_\_\_\_ at the pre - sence of

1 Lord,\_\_\_\_ bless the Lord's name. *Response*  
 2 - mong the peo - ples. *Response*  
 3 fruit show forth\_\_\_\_ their joy. *Response*  
 4 God who rules\_\_\_\_ the earth. *Response*

*tr.* from *The Psalms, A New Translation* (1989). Psalm verses by permission A. P. Watt, London  
 Response text © 1991, Christopher Willcock S. J. Music © 1975, 1991, Christopher Willcock S. J.  
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SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter to Titus:**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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. (Titus 2:11-14)

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

## GRADUAL HYMN

TIS 311

*Gtr. Capo 1* Bb(A) F7(E7)

1. Silent night, holy night:  
 all is calm, all is bright  
 round the virgin mother and  
 child,  
 holy infant so tender and mild,  
 sleep in heavenly peace,  
 sleep in heavenly peace.

3. Silent night, holy night:  
 wondrous star, lend your light;  
 with the angels let us sing

2. Silent night, holy night:  
 shepherds quake at the sight;  
 glories stream from heaven  
 afar,  
 heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!  
 Christ the Saviour is born,  
 Christ the Saviour is born.'

Alleluia to our King;  
 Christ our Saviour is born,  
 Christ our Saviour is born.

---

## GOSPEL READING

*Please stand for the Gospel reading*



The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 overtake 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 authority 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. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *(John 1:1-14)*

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

SERMON



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## CREED

*Please 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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.**

## 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.**

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## OFFERTORY HYMN

NEH 29



1. 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  
men,  
From heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they  
come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angles sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hers not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the  
song  
Which now the angels sing.


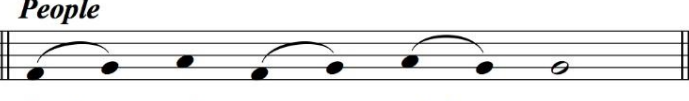




The New English Hymnal, Melody Edition, The Canterbury Press Norwich

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

**Blessèd be God for ever.**

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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>

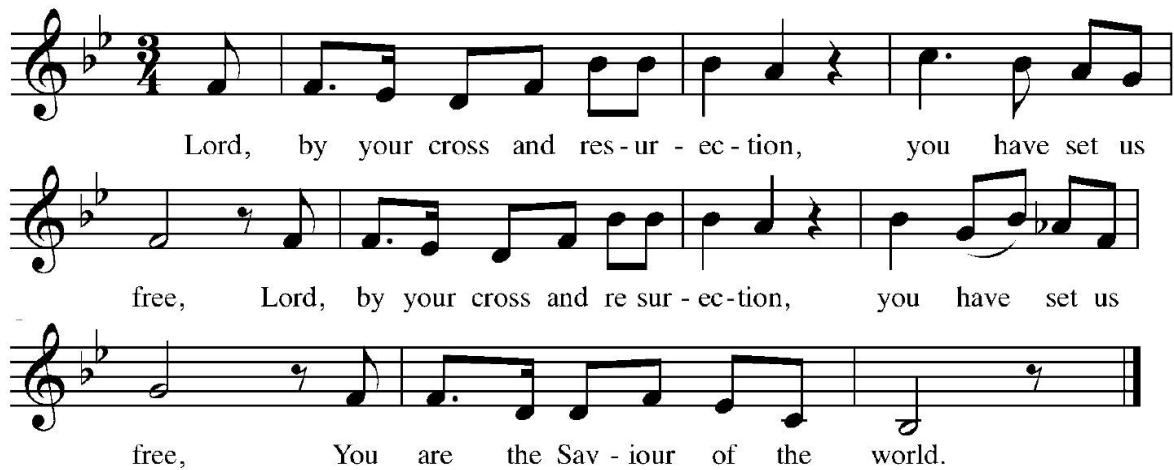
All glory and honour, thanks and praise ...  
 ... for every praising you and singing:



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.

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Merciful God, we thank you ...  
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 as our Saviour has commanded ... :  
... we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

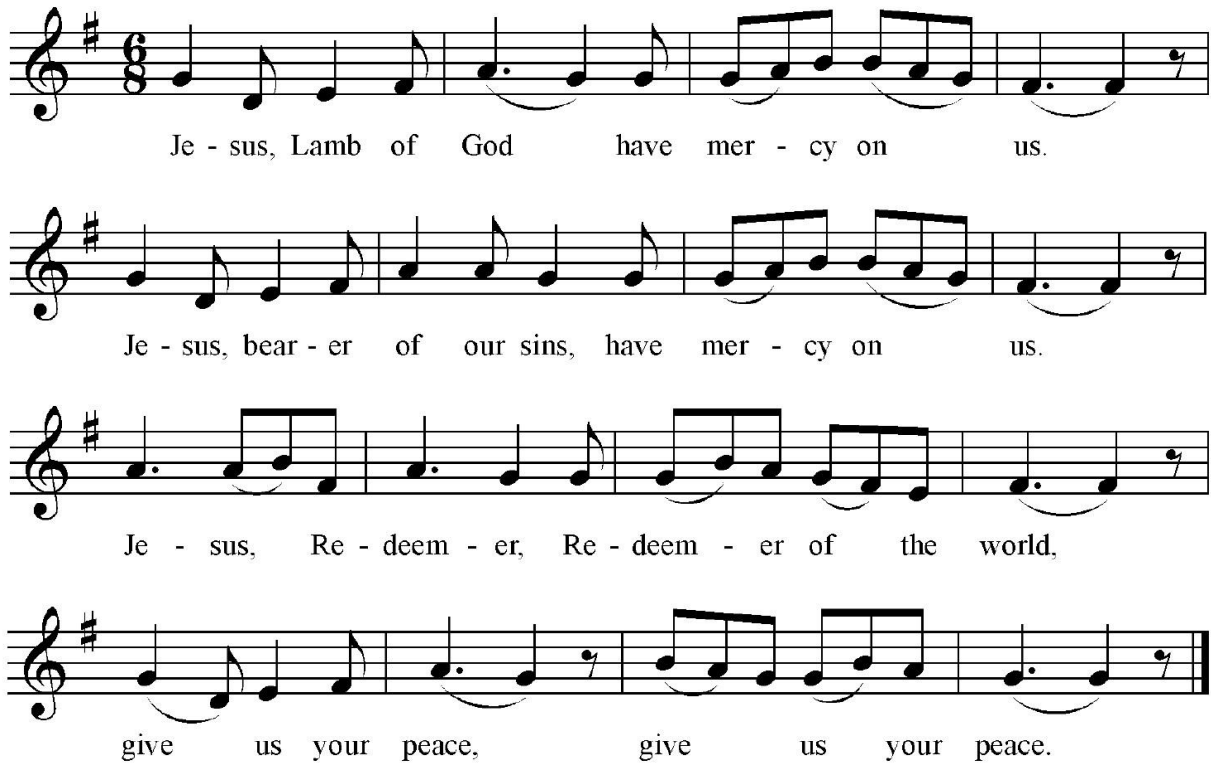
## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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We who are many, are one body:  
**for we all share in the 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.

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

**ANTHEM:** 'At Christmas' by Erik Esenvalds & 'Gesù bambino' by Pietro a Yon, arr. Mark Schweizer, violinist: Elizabeth Brookes.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

FINAL HYMN

TIS 304

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*

Possibly by John Francis Wade c.1711–1786 tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80, William Thomas Brooke 1848–1917 (vv.3–5) and others. Reproduced with permission

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## BLESSING

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

POSTLUDE: *'Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol'* by G Near.



### 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