

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist: Rite I

December 25, 2023
11:00 a.m.



Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome and thank you for worshiping with us today! Whatever your religious background (if any) and however you have come to be here with us, we welcome you. Whether you are online or in-person, we are glad that you have found us and we invite you to return here any Sunday so that we may continue to worship with you. Please visit us on the web at www.stjohnsmib.org where you can also sign our Virtual Guest Book, and, if you are in-person, please pick up a welcome bag at the back of the church.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*The Congregation joins in the portions printed in **bold italics**.*

Voluntary

Fantasia on GREENSLEEVES

J. F. Davidson

Hymn 100, "Joy to the world"

Tune: ANTIOCH

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with some words in bold italics to indicate where the congregation joins in.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far - as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in excelsis

Tune: GLORIA

Glo - ry be to God on high, to all peo - ple,
 Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare Lamb of God and
 Prais - es to the Ho - ly One, Prais - es sing in

peace on earth An - gels, shep - herds draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le -
 Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from
 high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er and the Son and the Ho - ly

brate His birth. Glo - - - - - ri - a
 heav'n a - bove.
 Spi - rit giv'n.

1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De - - - o!

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad by the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Lessons

All sit

Isaiah 9:2-7

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 96

Recited in unison

*Sing to the LORD a new song; **

Sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

*Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; **

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

*Declare his glory among the nations **

And his wonders among all peoples.

*For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; **

He is more to be feared than all gods.

*As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;**

But it is the LORD who made the heavens.

*Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! **

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the

*peoples; **

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his

*Name; **

Bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; **

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

*Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is King!**

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
Let the field be joyful and all that is therein.*

*Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *
When he comes to judge the earth.*

*He will judge the world with righteousness *
And the peoples with his truth.*

Titus 2:11-14

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 Savior, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

In that 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 Savior, 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 he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known

to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Sermon		<i>All sit</i>
The Nicene Creed	<i>All stand, as able</i>	<i>BCP, p. 326</i>
Prayers of the People	<i>All kneel, as able</i>	<i>BCP, Form IV, p. 388</i>
Confession and Absolution		<i>BCP, p. 331</i>
The Peace		<i>All stand, as able</i>
The peace of the Lord be always with you. <i>And also with you.</i>		
Announcements		<i>All sit</i>

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory, Voluntary	<i>Á la venue de Noël</i>	Claude Balbastre
The Great Thanksgiving	<i>Eucharist Prayer I</i>	<i>BCP, p. 333</i>

The Holy Eucharist is Christ’s eternal banquet, to which all adults and children are invited. If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition (and regardless of your current status in any other church) we welcome you to receive communion with this community of God’s people.

The usher will indicate when it is time for your row to come forward to the altar rail to receive Communion. If you wish to receive Communion in your pew, please let the usher know and it will be brought to you. When you go forward, an usher will indicate where to kneel at the rail, then hold your hands in front of you, one on top of the other, to receive the bread. Due to COVID restrictions, wine is by “intinction” only. No one sips from the common cup. If you wish to receive the wine, after the clergy places the bread in your hand, just hold it out for the chalice bearer, who will dip

it in the wine and place it on your tongue. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the bread and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer comes by, then return to your seat.

Communion Music

Improvisation on CRADLE SONG

The Post-Communion Prayer

All kneel, as able


BCP, p. 339

The Blessing

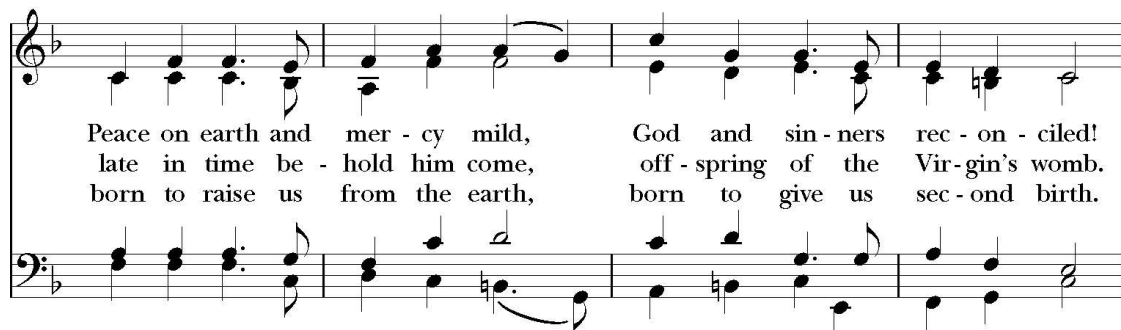
Please continue on next page.

Hymn 87, "Hark! The herald angels sing"

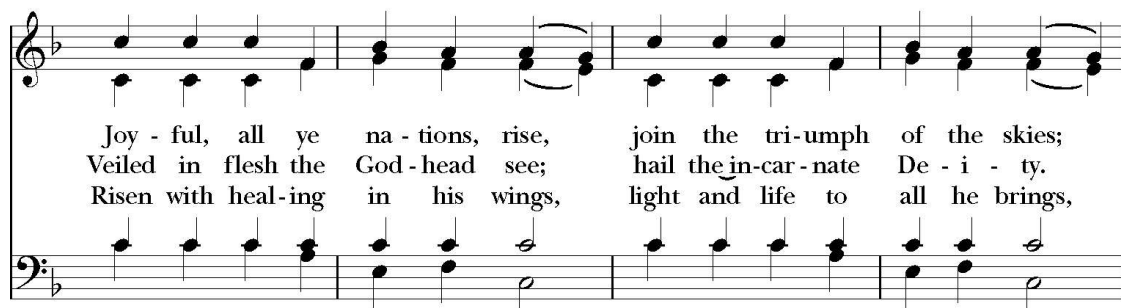
Tune: MENDELSSOHN



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the newborn King!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Voluntary

Improvisation on MENDELSSOHN

Davidson



THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

The *Fantasia on GREENSLEEVES* was composed fifty years ago for the new harpsichord at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington, IL, where Dr. D was music director. Our digital harpsichord makes an uncannily close approximation of that earlier instrument's sound.

A number of years ago Mark Schweizer, founder of the St. James Music Press, concocted a setting of the Ordinary using familiar carol tunes. We use his setting of the *Gloria in excelsis* as paired with the tune usually associated with "Angels we have heard on high."

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799) is mostly remembered today for his sets of variations on French Noëls. This morning we hear the set based on the tune AT THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS.



VISITORS AND GUESTS: Welcome to St. John's! Following the 10 a.m. Sunday service we offer nibbles, coffee and bottled water in our Parish Hall. If you have questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other need we can respond to, please call the Church Office at: 321-254-3365. And if you wish to know more about this church or to be included on our weekly and newsletter mailing lists, please call the office or email us at office@stjohnsmlb.org.

SIGN OUR VIRTUAL GUEST BOOK!
Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Virtual Guest Book to let us know you were here and pass on any comments you would like to make!



THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE may be given in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate some occasion. Contact the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org or 321-254-3365.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Christmas Eve Festival Worship**
Sunday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Carols, 7:45 p.m.
- Christmas Day Worship**
Monday, Dec. 25, 11 a.m.
No Christian Ed. Resumes Feb 4.

LESSONS & CAROLS
Sunday, Dec 31, 10 a.m.

- ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** No adult education today, resumes Feb. 4.
- YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** No Christian education today, resumes Feb. 4.
- TGIF:** Men's Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m., at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 32935. 321-254-8559.

SUNDAY MINISTRIES

	Dec. 24 8 p.m.	Dec. 25 11 a.m.	Dec 31
Greeters	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	J. & S. Hamilton	B. Chernault J. Miller	J. & J. McLaughlin
LEM	R. Huffman	K. Oas	D. Miller- Caldwell
Altar Guild	TBD	K. Oas	L. Bennett
Daughter			L. Miller
Counter	K. Wilson		K. Wilson
Audio/ Visual	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

A PRAYER REQUEST Box is available from the St. John's Order of the Daughters of the King in the Sanctuary beside the votive candles. We have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. In lieu of access to the prayer box, please give prayer requests directly to any Daughter listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH FOCUS for December is designated for the Diocesan Missions. **Rev. Steven and Mary Dass** serve in Sao Paolo, Brazil ministering among homeless children and adults in the 'red light district' of Sao Paolo. You can learn more on their blog at spmercyministry.com. **Rev. Loren and Linda Fox** serve in support of other missionaries. They live in northern Thailand, working in various parts of Asia. You may email ReachUs@EngagingTheAdventure.org. Anything in the blue envelopes, or clearly marked for outreach in the month of December will go to the Diocesan Missions.

FAMILY PROMISE: Hosting is expected to begin soon. Please speak to Linda Fletcher or Ben Kendall for details.

DONATE TO St. JOHN'S ONLINE!

You can now make a safe and convenient donation to St. John's via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right or visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Donate Now!



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

- Sun (12/24) Christmas Eve Worship, 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, In-person and livestream.
Carols, 7:45 p.m.
- Mon (12/25) Christmas Worship, Rite I, In-Person and livestream, 11 a.m.
Church office closed Dec. 25 & 26
- Fri (12/29) TGIF Men's Bible Study, La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 8 a.m.
- Sun (12/31) No Christian Education. Returns Feb 4.
Festival of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 a.m. In-person and livestream.

All Zoom and Livestream links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Calendar, then clicking on the event. Or you may email office@stjohnsmlb.org and we will send you the link.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*. . . is a worshiping community, obedient to scripture,
growing as servants of Christ, and sharing His love in word and deed.*

610 Young Street ✕ Melbourne, FL 32935 ✕ 321-254-3365 ✕ www.stjohnsmlb.org
Parish Office email: office@stjohnsmlb.org

The Rev. Eric W. Turner, Rector
Pastoral Emergency: 321-615-0205
eric@stjohnsmlb.org

The Rev. Terry Highland, Priest Associate
Pastoral Emergency: 321-831-2587
redemceec@aol.com

Dr. Jerry Davidson, Organist/Choirmaster
jfd112@gmail.com

Dallas Gambrel, II, Organ Scholar

Jackie Bond, Office Assistant
office@stjohnsmlb.org

Carole Taylor, Bookkeeper
ctaylor9797@yahoo.com

The Vestry of St. John's Church
Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden

Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden
Elizabeth Chludzinski, Treasurer
Susan Badgio, Assistant Treasurer
Katie Wilson, Secretary

Serving thru 1/2024
Skip Alcorn, Susan Badgio,
Deborah Miller-Caldwell

Serving thru 1/2025
Jackie Bond, Jamie Hamilton, Kathy Oas

Serving thru 1/2026
Jack Kenworthy, Amy Lacy