

Christmas Day



December 25th, 2025
8:00 am ~ Festive Eucharist

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Des Plaines, Illinois

Welcome to St. Martin's!

Holiday Choir

Karl Dahlstrom

Katie Eccles

Leslie Meyer

Gay Miezin

Gloria Wilberg

Mairin Wisnewski-Boswell

Holiday Instrumentalists

John Rich – pan flute

Karen Wilberg – organ, piano

St. Martin's Vestry

Bryan Coussens (Senior Warden)

Justin Cochran (Junior Warden)

Monica Brunson

Kris Dahlstrom

Amanda Vandervort

Jack Short, Certified Treasurer

St. Martin's Staff

The Very Rev. M.E. Eccles, Rector

Karen Wilberg, Music Director/Organist

Helayne Levin, Communications and Operations Mgr.

JB Enterprises West, Inc., Sextons

The Rev. Patrick Pierce, Priest Associate

Prelude

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ~ *O come all Ye Faithful* (H83) vs. 1, 2, 3, 6

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,
Christ the Lord.

God from God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;

Refrain

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 Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

1. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

2. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks

to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly King,

God the Father Al-might - y. 4. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - - ther,

5. that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy up - on us.

6. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

7. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mercy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. Thou only, O Christ,
 with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *(please be seated)*

The First Reading *Isaiah 62:6-12*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
 they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
 take no rest,
and give him no rest
 until he establishes Jerusalem
 and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand
 and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
 to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
 for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
 and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
 in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
 prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
 clear it of stones,
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed
 to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
 "See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

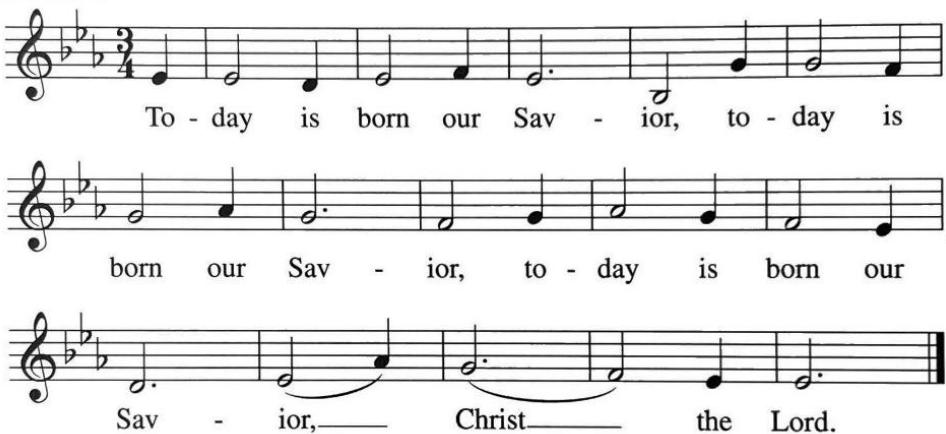
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm ~ Today is Born our Savior

Congregation sings the refrain

REFRAIN



To - day is born our Sav - ior, to - day is
born our Sav - ior, to - day is born our
Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

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The Second Reading Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ~ Luke 2:[1-14], 15-20

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”]

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Angels we have heard on high*

H96

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. M.E. Eccles

THE NICENE CREED *(Please stand as able.)*

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively. At the conclusion of each petition, the leader says:

Leader: Glorious Lord,
People: Grant us your peace.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation Hymn *The first nowell the angel did say*

H109

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 winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

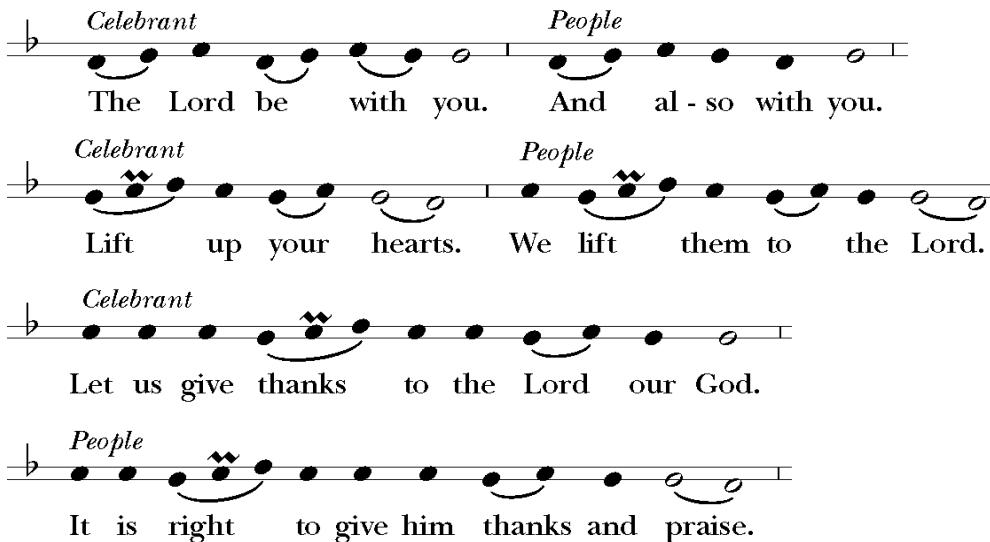
This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Music notation for The Great Thanksgiving, featuring four staves of music with lyrics. The first staff (Celebrant) has lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And also with you." The second staff (People) has lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff (Celebrant) has lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff (People) has lyrics: "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notation uses a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The lyrics are aligned with the musical notes.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

Celebrant:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary the Godbearer, Martin and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

S164

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.

INVITATION & DISTRIBUTION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Instructions for distribution will be given at the announcements; please follow the Usher's instructions. Please hold your hands out to receive the bread. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

All are welcome!

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, glod and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him:
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(stand or kneel)*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: **God of abundance,**
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people
in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim
your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING *(stand or kneel)*

Celebrant: ...this day and always,
People: **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN *Joy to the World, the Lord is come!*

H100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

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

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

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

THE DISMISSAL

After the dismissal, the people respond

Celebrant: ...Alleluia! Alleluia!
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

**All are welcome
and fed with the love of God
pets too!**

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