



# St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2008

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**A Festival of Lessons and Carols  
and  
Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m.**



Unto us a boy is born! The King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he with sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us.

----15<sup>th</sup> century Latin carol

**Processional Hymn #102**

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¶ **The congregations stands when the organ begins playing the carol. All join in singing the last two verses.**

**Solo** 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.

**Choir** 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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

**All** **For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**All** **And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

### **Bidding Prayer**

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¶ **Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.**

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

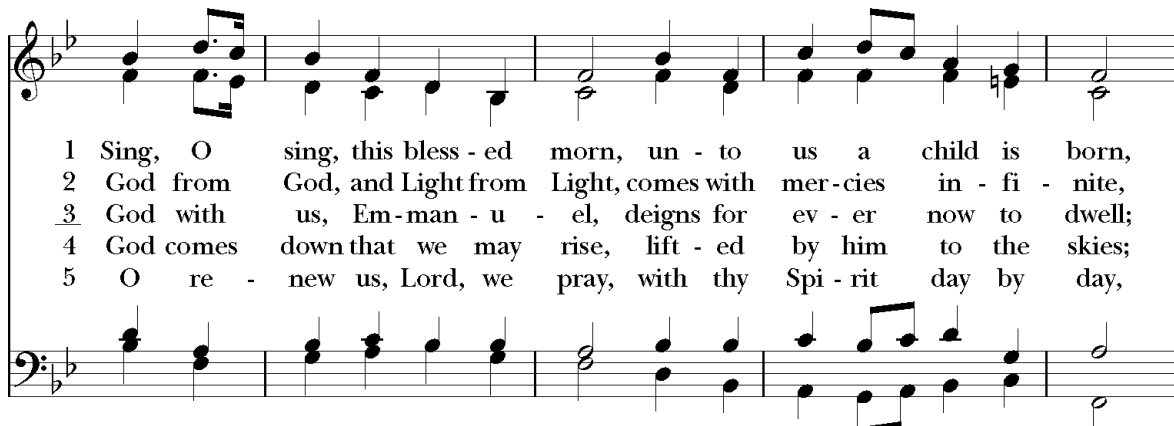
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the Name of the One who was born for us, Jesus the Christ.

**All** **Amen.**

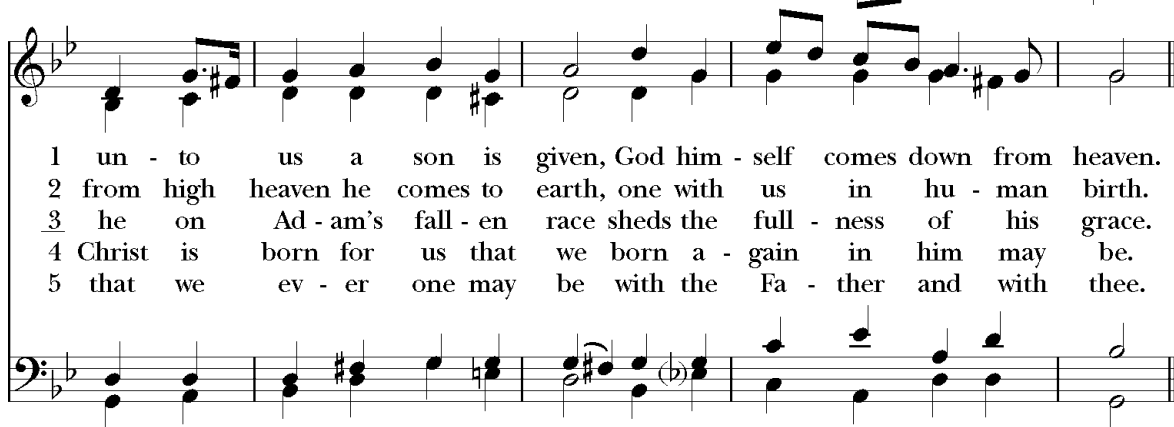
The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**All** **Amen.**

## Hymn

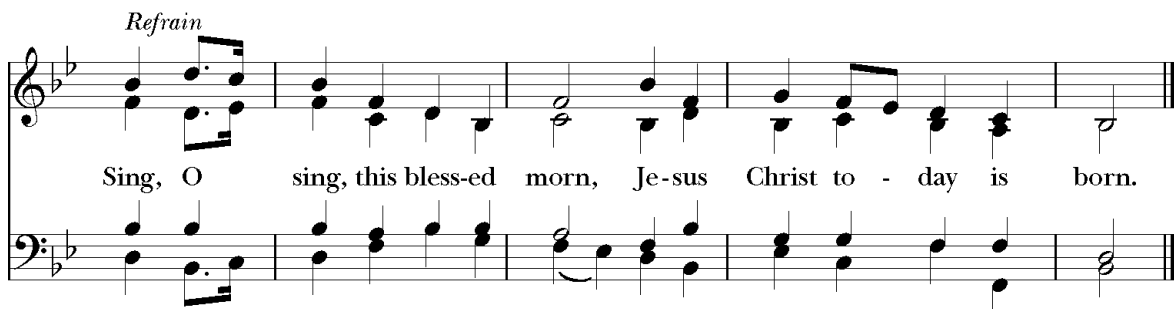


1 Sing, O sing, this bless - ed morn, un - to us a child is born,  
2 God from God, and Light from Light, comes with mer - cies in - fi - nite,  
3 God with us, Em-man - u - el, deigns for ev - er now to dwell;  
4 God comes down that we may rise, lift - ed by him to the skies;  
5 O re - new us, Lord, we pray, with thy Spi - rit day by day,



1 un - to us a son is given, God him - self comes down from heaven.  
2 from high heaven he comes to earth, one with us in hu - man birth.  
3 he on Ad - am's fall - en race sheds the full - ness of his grace.  
4 Christ is born for us that we born a - gain in him may be.  
5 that we ev - er one may be with the Fa - ther and with thee.

*Refrain*



Sing, O sing, this bless-ed morn, Je-sus Christ to - day is born.

¶ The congregation sits.

## First Lesson

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.*

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent,

‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.” ’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.’

## Carol

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Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came; but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child  
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,

Redeem us for eternal day;  
Defend us while we dwell below  
From all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally.

## Second Lesson

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*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Carol

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On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.

*Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

His the doom, ours the mirth when he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth; ex and ass beside him  
From the cold would hide him.

*Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;  
Kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
Praise him and adore him.

*Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;  
Peace and love he gave us.

*Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## Hymn

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¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

¶ The congregation sits.

### Third Lesson

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.*

Luke 1:26-58

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he

came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

    'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
    and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
    Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
    from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
    and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
    to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

## **Carol**

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Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,  
Virgin-mother undefiled;  
Sing of God's own Son most holy,  
Who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother,  
God the Lord who came to earth,

Word made flesh, our very brother,  
Takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,  
In the home at Nazareth,  
Toil and labor cannot weary  
Love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her,  
Though he went forth from her side,  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,  
Til on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father;  
Glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit;  
Glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary,  
From all saints the song ascends,  
And the Church the strain reechoes  
Unto earth's remotest ends.

#### **Fourth Lesson**

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*Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.*

Luke 2:1-20

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.

### **Carol**

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Unto us a boy is born! The King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he with sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us.

### **Hymn**

---

¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

¶ The congregation sits.

## Fifth Lesson

*Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple.*

Luke 2:21-36

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child

Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

## Hymn #101

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¶ **Sung by all, standing.**

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fir us for heaven to live with thee there.

¶ **The congregation sits.**

## Sixth Lesson

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*The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.*

John 1:1-18

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 overcome 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 power 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 a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### Hymn #83

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¶ Sung by all, standing.

Ø 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 from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only begotten Son of the Father; *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 Holy Communion

#### At the Offertory

**All sing:** Hymnal #99 "Go tell it on the mountain"

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Hymn at the Presentation**

Hymnal #380, v. 3 “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

*Old 100th***The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B****BCP 367****The Breaking of the Bread****BCP 364****Hymns at the Communion**

Hymnal #110 “The snow lay on the ground”

*Venite adoremus*

Hymnal #107 “Good Christian friends, rejoice”

*In dulci jubilo*

Hymnal #79 “O little town of Bethlehem”

*St. Louis*

Hymnal #114 “’Twas in the moon of wintertime”

*Une jeune pucelle*

Hymnal #82 “Of the Father’s love begotten”

*Divinum mysterium***People’s response to the sending out of the Eucharistic Visitors:***May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ’s presence.***Postcommunion Prayer and Blessing****BCP 365****Hymn at the Procession**

Hymn #87 “Hark! the herald angels sing”

*Mendelssohn***Dismissal**

Lessons and Carols Choir: Members Chancel Choir and St. John’s Singers; Parker Gibson, Soloist

St. John’s Episcopal Church  
 Montgomery, Rector  
 2827 Wheat Street  
 Rector’s Associate  
 Columbia, South Carolina 29205  
 Associate  
 803-799-4767  
[www.stjohnscolumbia.org](http://www.stjohnscolumbia.org)

J. Fletcher  
 Mary Moore Roberson,  
 Charles F. Duvall, Bishop