

Holy Eucharist for a Quiet Christmas

Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm



All may join in singing before the service begins:

Taize

Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. The word 'Taize' is written in a small font to the left of the first staff.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
And blessed be God's Kingdom now and forever. Amen.

O God, you are the source and redeemer of life; we are the mortal ones who work so very hard to trust in you and the eternity you promise. Only you fully know and understand the places where we find ourselves: between faith and doubt, light and darkness, hope and despair, love and fatigue of spirit, joy and harsh reality, peace and unrest. Only you will deliver us from what seems too real, into the truth of your consolation.

Comfort us O God. Help us to see through the darkness into your glorious light and to offer our sadness and grief into your ever-present care, for we long to know Christmas even in our pain and sadness. We pray this in the name of the one who came to us in Bethlehem, who comes to us this night, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All sing:

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (7:10-14)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-11 *read responsively*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

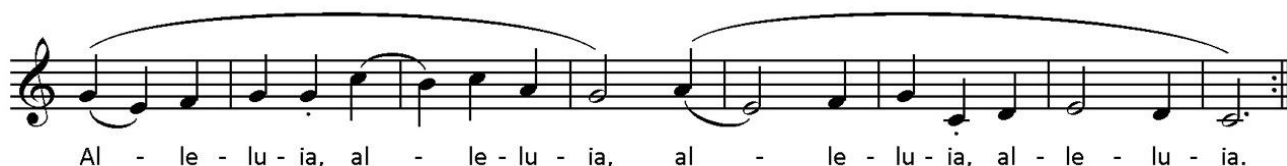
Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

All rise for the Alleluia.

Song Leader, then all and after the verse:



Leo Sowerby

VERSE: Prepare a way within, make your heart ready; the glory of God will be revealed to all people, together!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26-38)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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, favoured 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 favour 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily: Karen Haig

Silence follows the Homily.

Liturgy of Remembering

All are here invited to light a candle either speaking the names of loved ones lost, or offering special intentions for the grace of God's light in the places of darkness.

We light this candle to remember those we love but see no longer. We remember their names, their faces, their voices, their beings, and all the memories that bind us to them this season.

Loving God, surround them with your eternal love.

We light this candle to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health, and all our losses. We gather up all the pain of our past and our present, and offer it to God.

Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

We light this candle to remember our own lives this Christmas time. We recall the past weeks and months; our shock, disbelief, anger and heartache. We recall too, the poignancy of reminiscing, the blessing of family, friends and all who have stood with us. We give thanks for the love and support we have known.

Gracious God, be our light in the darkness.

We light this candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope given to us in Christmas. We remember that the God who loves us has promised us a time where sorrow and suffering will be no more.

Compassionate God, we thank you for promising to be with us in our sorrow and suffering, and for showing us the way and the truth of your love.

Sharing this light, we anticipate the gift of new life born in Christ Jesus, and in us this season.

We receive this light as a sign of the hope that is growing within us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Rector's Welcome

At the Offertory all sing:



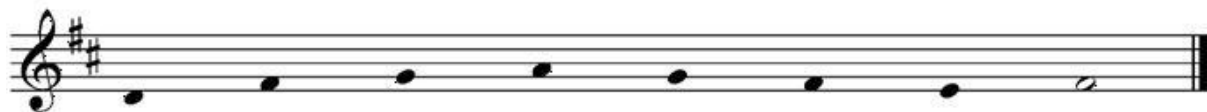
1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3. When this old world drew on toward night,
4. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,



your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
not as a mon - arch, but the child
de - fend us while we dwell be - low,



we pray you hear us when we call.
your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
of Ma - ry, blame - less moth - er mild.
and teach us in your paths to go.

Words Latin, 9th cent., ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Metric: Conditor aëne siderum, plainsong; mode 4

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Mary, Blessed Barnabas, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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

All sing:

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Let us pray.

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive
you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have
already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be
separated from you. Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the People of God.

 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of
the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for
assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your
Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the
work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ
our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for
ever. Amen.**

Blessing

All sing:

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

John Carter

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Karen Haig, Presider & Preacher
Paul Roy, Organist
Andrew Etherington, Song Leader
Reader, Joan Collins
Jim Friedrich, Video Production

