

Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

*A thrill
of hope
the
weary world
rejoices*



Wednesday 24th December 2025 • 10.30 pm

with Christmas music before the service 10 pm

ST. THOMAS'S CATHEDRAL

The Diocese of Bombay

Church of North India • A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Christmas at St. Thomas's Cathedral

We are so happy that you are worshipping with us in this beautiful Cathedral which has witnessed Christian worship for over 300 years. You are here at one of Christianity's three most holy times (Easter and Pentecost being the others)—a day on which we give thanks for the coming among us of God in the life and witness of Jesus. Christmas is about what theologians call the Incarnation—the “enfleshment”—of God in us. God has become one of us in Jesus. From now on, we human beings and all that we are—our joys, our sorrows, our achievements, our losses—is blessed and transformed by God's healing and freeing love.

Christmas arrives each year wrapped in beauty, music, and tradition. . Yet beneath the warmth and celebration lies a truth that is both uncomfortable and astonishing: God chose to enter the world not with force or fanfare, but in vulnerability. The incarnation is not a sentimental detail of Christian faith—it is a divine disruption. Luke's Gospel tells us that Mary “brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger” (Luke 2:7). The Son of God was born into borrowed space, laid in an animal feeding trough, and greeted not by royalty but by shepherds. In a world that measures greatness by power, wealth, and visibility, God chose smallness. This choice invites us to reconsider where we expect God to be at work.

“For unto you is born this day... a Saviour” (Luke 2:11).

The promise of Christmas is deeply personal. God still comes quietly. Still offers grace. Still seeks room—not in a stable, but in human hearts. As the season unfolds, perhaps the most important question Christmas asks is not how we will celebrate, but how we will respond. If Jesus were to enter our lives as He entered the world—humbly and unexpectedly—what might He disrupt, challenge, or transform? In choosing to be small, God revealed the greatness of His love. And that love continues to call us, even now, to look again at the manger and discover what kind of King has come.

From all of us here at the Cathedral, have a joyous Christmas, a wonderful new year, and we hope to see you soon.

The Reverend Avinash Theophilus Rangayya
Cathedral Presbyter

We kindly request that you do not take photographs,
or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during services.
You are welcome to take photographs at any other time.

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Music before the service

Organ prelude	Votre bonté grand Dieu (Your goodness, great God)	Claude Balbastre (1724 - 1799)
Pieces from the following selection will be played before the service.	Gloria: 'Declamation'	Michael Bedford (b. 1949)
	Prelude at Christmastide	C. V. Stanford, Op. 182, No. 1 (1852 - 1924)
	God rest you merry: 'Dance'	Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)
	Stille Nacht ("Silent night): 'Interlude'	Alan Bullard (b. 1947)
	Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo', BWV 729	J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

French Horn A medley of seasonal favourites

Hymn

While seated
all sing

**Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth forever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

Words: Prudentius (348 - c. 413)

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
melody from Piæ Cantiones, 1582

Choir

O du fröhliche! O du selige!
(O most wonderful! O most merciful!)

German (Tune: Italian traditional)

Carol

While seated
all sing

**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?**

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
This, this is Christ, the King,
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

Words: William C. Dix (1837 - 1898)

Tune: GREENSLEEVES
Old English melody

Harp

A medley of seasonal favourites

Choir

Gesù Bambino (The Infant Jesus) - Pietro Yon (1886 - 1943)

Medley

While seated
all sing

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel,

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, *Fa la la la la, la la la la.*

Welsh carol



**Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riven with angel singing.**

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

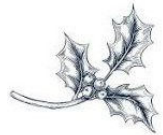
Words: George Woodward (1848 - 1934)

Music: 16th cent. French

**The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown:**

***O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir***

**The holly bears a bark,
as bitter as the gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to redeem us all:**



Traditional English carol, arr. Andrew Sims

**O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
your leaves will surely teach me
that hope and love and faithfulness
are precious things I can possess.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with faithful leaves unchanging.**

German traditional

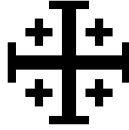
Spiritual

Mary's boy child Jesus Christ

**All join in the refrain: Hark now hear the angels sing
new King's born today,
and man will live for evermore
because of Christmas Day.**

- Jester Hairston (1901 - 2000)

THE ORDER OF SERVICE



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Festival Holy Eucharist
24th December 2025 • 10.30 P.M.

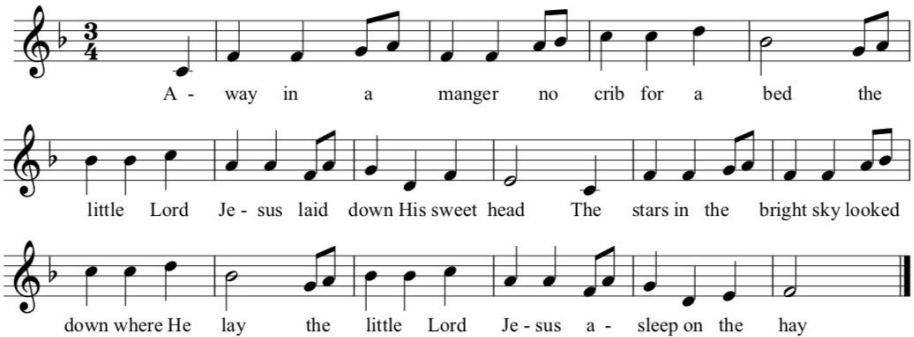
The Gathering

Welcome

*by the Revd Avinash Rangayya
Cathedral Presbyter*

The Blessing of the Crib

All stand facing the West Door and sing



Presbyter

Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.

All

He will dwell with us and we shall be His people;

Presbyter

God Himself is with us. Alleluia.

All

Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

The Bishop

Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son
to take our human nature upon him,
and to be born of a pure Virgin:

Continued. Turn over.

Bless, we pray, this crib, that it may be a sign of his humble birth;
and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened
to greet him when he comes again in glory;
even the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
in glory everlasting.

All Amen.

All sing

**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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

Words: Anonymous

Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838 - 1921)
arr. David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

A fanfare is sounded. All join in singing

Carol at the Procession

O come all ye faithful

I.O come all ye faith-ful joyful and tri- umph-ant O come ye O come ye to
Be - th - le - hem Come and be - hold Him born the King of an - gels O come let us a-
dore Him O come let us a- dore Him O come let us a- dore Him Chri - st the Lord

2

**God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created.**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

- 3 **See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps;**
- 4 **Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?**
- 5 **Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God
In the Highest.**
- 6 **Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:**

Words: Latin 18th century, tr. F. Oakeley (1802 - 80)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

J. F. Wade (c. 1711 - 86)

Descant: Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

Please be seated

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Bishop says

Rejoice, people of God.
The Light has come into the world.
Sacred Mystery, we now light the candle of your nativity.

As the Christ candle is lit, the choir sings

O Jesu most kind, O Jesu most sweet!
To sing Thy love what praise is meet.
Before Thy manger throne we lay
Our hearts this blessed Christmas day.
O Jesu most kind, O Jesu most sweet!

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685—1750)

Translated and adapted by C. S. Phillips (1883 - 1949)

All say **Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

The Presbyter says In the name of the † Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Collect for Purity

All say

**ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be 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.**

The Summary of the law

The Presbyter

OUR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.**

Presbyter The Lord be with you;
All **And also with you.**

All stand and sing

All **Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit:
great Jehovah, Three in One!**
Glory, glory
while eternal ages run!

Choir ² Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each spot and stain;
glory be to him who bought us,
made us kings with him to reign!

All **Glory, glory**
to the Lamb that once was slain!

Please be seated

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Presbyter The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

The Presbyter O God, who hast made this holy night to glow with the brightness
of His coming, who is the light of the world:
Grant that we who hail on earth the mystery of His appearing
may rejoice hereafter in the light of His heavenly presence;
who with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God,
world without end.

All **Amen.**

Glory be to God

Choir ³ Glory to the King of angels,
glory to the Church's King,
glory to the King of nations;
heaven and earth your praises bring!

All **Glory, glory,**
to the King of glory sing!

All ⁴ **Glory, blessing, praise eternal!**
thus the choir of angels sings;
honour, riches, power, dominion!
thus its praise creation brings.

Glory, glory
glory to the King of kings!

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808 - 1889)

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

Henry Smart (1813 - 79)

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

A reading from the prophesy of Isaiah.

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, Thou hast increased their joy: they joy before Thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor as in the day of Midian. For all the armour of the armed man in the tumult and the garments rolled in blood, shall even be for burning, for fuel of fire.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from hence- forth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated while the choir

sings the Psalm to a chant by T. A. Walmisley

Psalm

98

Cantate Domino

- O SING unto the Lord a new song :
for he hath done marvellous things.
- ² With his own right hand, and with his holy arm :
hath he gotten himself the victory.
- ³ The Lord declared his salvation :
his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
- ⁴ He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel :
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
- ⁵ Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands :
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
- ⁶ Praise the Lord upon the harp :
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
- ⁷ With trumpets also and shawms :
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is:
the round world, and they that dwell therein.

Continued

- ⁹ Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together
before the Lord : for he is come to judge the earth.
¹⁰ With righteousness shall he judge the world :
and the people with equity.

All stand Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

Please be seated

The Epistle

Hebrews 1:1 - 12

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

GOD who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said He at any time,

Thou art my Son,
This day have I begotten Thee?

And again,
I will be to Him a Father,
And He shall be to me a Son?

And again, when He bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, He saith,
And let all the angels of God worship Him.

And of the angels He saith,
Who maketh His angels spirits,
And His ministers a flame of fire.

But unto the Son He saith,
Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever;
A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom;
Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;
Therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee
With the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.

And,
Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the
earth;
And the heavens are the works of Thine hands:

Continued. Turn over.

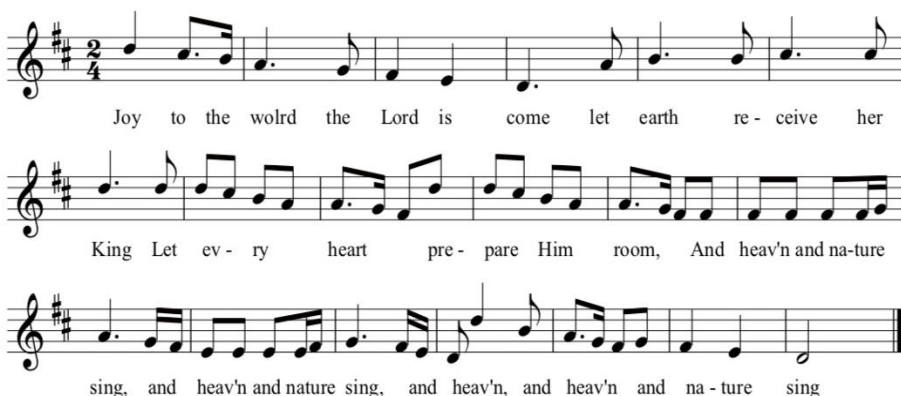
And they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
 And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up,
 And they shall be changed;
 But thou art the same,
 And thy years shall not fail.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and sing

The Gradual



Joy to the world the Lord is come let earth re - ceive her
 King Let ev - ry heart pre - pare Him room, And heav'n and na-ture
 sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing

² **Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy. ///**

³ **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. ///**

⁴ **He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love. ///**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

Tune: ANTIOCH
 G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

Remain standing for the Gospel and Creed

*The cantor sings the Alleluia
and we respond*

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
And we have seen his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Christ

St John 1:1 - 14

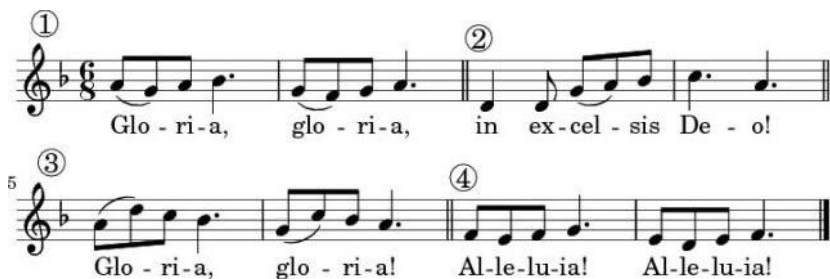
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

All Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Gospeller This is the Gospel of Christ.

All Praise be to thee, O Christ.



Remain standing and recite the Creed

The Nicene Creed

**I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God,
light of light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
through whom all things were made:
Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pi-
late. He suffered and was buried,
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glori-
fied,
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
and the Life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Music: from 'An Anglican Folk Mass' by Martin Shaw

Please be seated

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Prabhu Jebamani
Bishop of Bombay

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

Greeting of Peace

The Bishop offers a greeting of peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*
The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of peace.
Remain standing to sing the offertory carols.*

While shepherds watched their flocks



WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

² 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

³ 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

Continued

⁴ 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

⁵ Thus spoke the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

⁶ 'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate, 1652 - 1715

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD
first appeared in Este's Psalter, 1592

The organ sounds a fanfare

Hark the herald angels sing

1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new born King Peace on earth and
mer - cy mild God and sinners re - con - ciled Joy - ful all ye nations rise
join the triumph of the skies with th'angelic host pro - claim Christ is born in
Beth - le - hem Hark the herald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new born King

² Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain *Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

³ **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Risen with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth,
 Born to give them second birth.**

Refrain **Hark! the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) & G. Whitefield (1714-1770) Tune: MENDELSSOHN
 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)

Presbyter Let us pray.

All **All things come of Thee, and of Thine own do we give
 unto Thee,
 O Creator of the world,
 who art ever adored by the holy Angels.
 We humbly beseech Thee to accept at our hands these
 (alms and) oblations, which we present at Thy holy Table,
 and with them the offering of our selves to the service of
 Thy divine Majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kneel as able or sit

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Looking to God among us, Jesus Christ our Lord,
 Word made flesh and Son of the Father,
 let us pray in faith and trust.
 Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless:
 Jesus, Saviour,

All **hear our prayer.**
 Word of life, on the night of your birth you hallowed all time and
 all flesh. Expand the vision of this faith community.
 Pray for all Church leaders, especially: Paritosh our Moderator,
 Reuben, Moderator of the *Church of South India*,
 Theodosius Mar Thoma the Metropolitan of the *Mar Thoma*
Church, Prabhu our Bishop and Avinash our Presbyter. Holy God,
hear our prayer. *Continued*

Intercessor

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep: Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

All

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed: Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern: Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose birth brought peace and wholeness, give healing
to the sick and comfort to the disturbed. Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory
of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,
hear our prayer, receive our praises,
fill our lives.
Amen.**

The General Confession & Absolution

Celebrant

YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins,
and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to
lead a new life,
following the commandments of God,
and walking from henceforth in His holy ways;
Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your
comfort;
and make your humble confession to Almighty God,
meekly kneeling upon your knees.

All say

**ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:**

**We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine majesty,
provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us .**

**We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings:
The remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
the burden of them is intolerable.**

**Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in new-
ness of life,
to the honour and glory of Thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The celebrant says

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The celebrant says

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him. Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

St. Matthew 11.28

So God loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

St. John 3. 16

Hear also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15*

Hear also what Saint John saith. If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins. *1 St John 2. 1*

The Eucharistic Prayer

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum Corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

Celebrant The Lord be with you;
All **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to our Lord God;
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Celebrant IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name;
evermore praising Thee, and saying,

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**
God of power and might. //
Heaven and earth are full
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. //

Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. //

From Schubert's German Mass

The Breaking of Bread

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

The Celebrant

HOLY in truth art Thou, and blessed in truth,
O Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
for that Thou of Thy tender mercy didst give
Thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon Him,
and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption;
who made there, by His one oblation of Himself once offered,
a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction,
for the sins of the whole world;
and did institute, and in His holy Gospel command us to continue,
a perpetual memorial of that His precious death, until His coming again:

Who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took Bread;
and when He had given thanks to Thee, He brake it,
and gave it to His disciples, saying,
Take, eat, this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper He took the Cup; and , when He had given thanks, He gave it
to them, saying,
Drink ye all of this: for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins:
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father we Thy humble servants
do celebrate and make here before Thy Divine Majesty, with these Thy holy gifts,
the memorial Thy Son hath commanded us to make;
having in remembrance His blessed passion, and precious death,
His mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension;
rendering unto Thee most hearty thanks for the same,
and looking for His coming again with power and great glory,

And we entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept on high
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ,
and through faith in His blood,
we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins,
and all other benefits of His passion.

And we humbly beseech Thee, most merciful Father,
to send down Thy holy and life-giving Spirit upon us and upon these Thy gifts,
that the Bread which we break may be the communion of the Body of Christ,
and the Cup which we bless may be the communion of His Blood;
and grant, that all we who are partakers of this Holy communion
may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction,
and made one body in Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All say **And here we offer and present unto Thee,
O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies,
to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee.
And although we be unworthy,
through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any
sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee
to accept this our bounden duty and service;
not weighing our merits,
but pardoning our offences,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be unto Thee,
O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.**

The Communion

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowèd be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung to a setting by Albert Hay Malotte (1895 - 1964)

The Prayer of Humble Access

All say

WE do not presume to come to this Thy Table,
O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in Thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table.
But Thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink His Blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body,
and our souls washed through His most precious Blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in Him,
and He in us. **Amen.**

All **Jesus** Lamb of God have mercy on us,
 Jesus bearer of our sins have mercy on us,
 Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world
 give us your peace. //

From Schubert's German Mass

The Distribution of Communion

The Celebrant addresses them that come to receive the Holy Communion:

DRAW near and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which were given for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please follow the directions of the ushers to proceed to the High Altar.

And when the Celebrant delivers the Bread, he shall say:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body
and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died
for thee, and feed on Him in Thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.
Amen.

And the Minister that delivers the Cup says:

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this is remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

Amen.

During the administration of the Communion the choir sings

O holy night - Adolphe Adam (1803 - 1856)

Night of wonder - Theron Kirk (1919 - 1999)

While seated, all join in singing

**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 angels sing.**

Words: Edmund Sears (1810 - 1876)

³ **For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Tune: CAROL

Richard Willis (1819 - 1900)

All stand

The Presbyter

Let us pray

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

All Amen.

Prayer after Communion

All

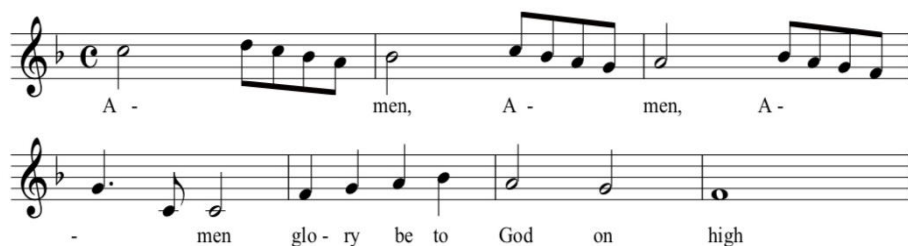
**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Bishop says

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace, to trust his
promises and obey his will;
And the blessing of God almighty,
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All sing



*As the lights are dimmed and the candles lit,
the choir sings*

Star of the midnight shining, over a manger bed,
Where by Thy ray so wondrous, kings of the earth are led,
Lead us to seek the Saviour, through shadows dark and dim,
Bring us to manger lowly, that we may worship Him.

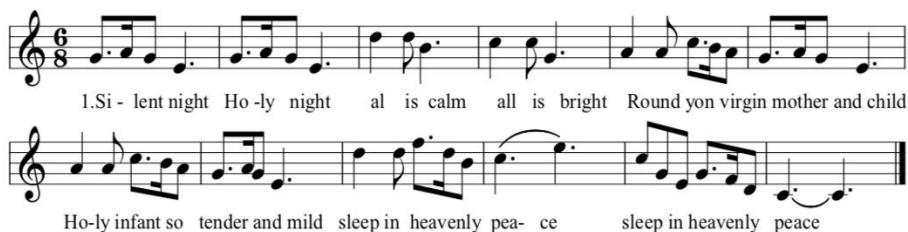
Star of the midnight bring us, where lies the Prince of peace.
Where from our every torment, find we a sweet release,
Then through the realms of glory, shall come an answering cry,
Echoing through the ages, "Glory to God on high!"

Words: Charles Austin Miles (1868 - 1946)

Music: F. Campana

All stand and sing

Carol at the Closing



² Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Saviour is born! //

³ Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, loves pure light!
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth! //

⁴ Silent night! Holy night!

All is dark save the light
Yonder where they sweet vigil keep
O'er the Babe who in silent sleep
Rests in heavenly peace. //

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792 - 1848)

Tune: STILLE NACHT
Franz Grüber (1787 - 1863)

From the West Door the Presbyter says

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All reply **Thanks be to God.**

Music after the Service

Organ

Toccata from the 5th Symphony for organ, Op. 42
- Charles-Marie Widor (1845 - 1937)

A Christmas Prayer

Lord, the sights of the season surround us :

bright lights,
trimmed trees,
soft snow,
colourful counters for consumers.

Lord, the sounds of the season fill our ears :

sleigh bells ringing,
carollers singing,
cash registers ringing,
recorded singing.

We screen from our sight

people starving,
elderly dying,
armies fighting,
sick suffering.

We hold from our hearing

needy pleading,
babies crying,
guns firing.

And yet, the manger story is about

a family without housing,
a baby crying,
a Herod hating.

Are we looking for you in the wrong places again?

Open our eyes and ears to your presence

in a baby born, formed or deformed,
in a youth drop-out, drugged or desperate,
in a woman worrying, weeping or wondering,
in a man torn, tense or tired,
in a family friendless, fearful or forgotten.

Amen.

By Larry Hard



**May the hope, peace, love and joy
of the Christ Child
be yours now and always.
Wishing you and your loved ones
a blessed Christmas and
a happy New Year.**

***Take this booklet home with you as a reminder of your visit.
Please do not leave it behind.***

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001
Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya
Telephone: (Vestry) **98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

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