



The Cathedral of the Incarnation

Garden City, NY

14 December 2025

Choral Mass at 11:15 AM

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Page numbers in this leaflet refer to the red **Book of Common Prayer** (BCP). The Holy Eucharist Rite II begins on page 355 of the BCP. The hymns are sung from the blue **Hymnal 1982**, or from the red & green **Lift every Voice and Sing**, both of which are found under the seats.

VOLUNTARY: *Les Vêpres de la Sainte Vierge - Antiphon III*

Marcel Dupré
(1886 – 1971)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 59

Merton

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY (*said by the presider*)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Following the Collect, the Choir sings the Kyrie eleison

KYRIE ELEISON, *Missa Brevis Sancti Johannis de Deo*

Joseph Haydn
(1732 – 1809)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

Sung by the Choir/Chant by George Elvey

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 67

Psalms 42

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no

one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Sniffen, PhD,
Dean of the Cathedral

THE NICENE CREED

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

Intercessor Let us pray to the Lord.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *O thou, the central orb*

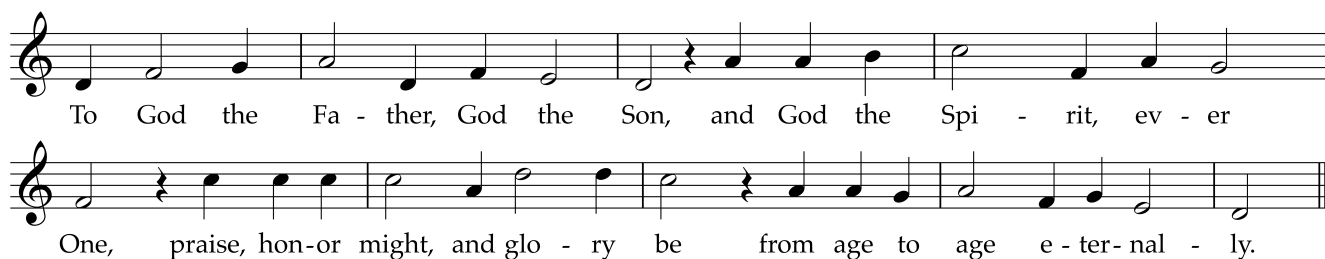
Charles Wood

(1866 – 1926)

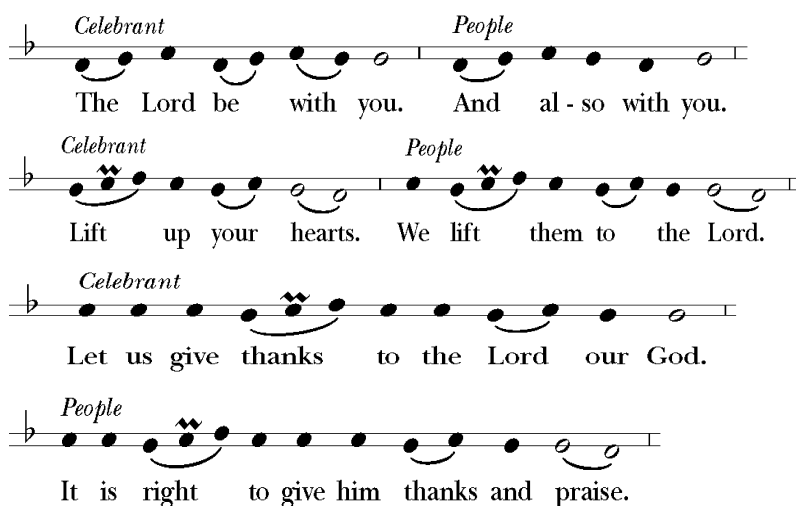
O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most High, eternal light on this our darkening world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to move. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day in fellowship with thee, transforming clay to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.

OFFERTORY HYMN (*sung by ALL, standing*)

O Heiland, reiss



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Presider sings the Preface, and at the conclusion the Choir sings

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS, *Missa Brevis*

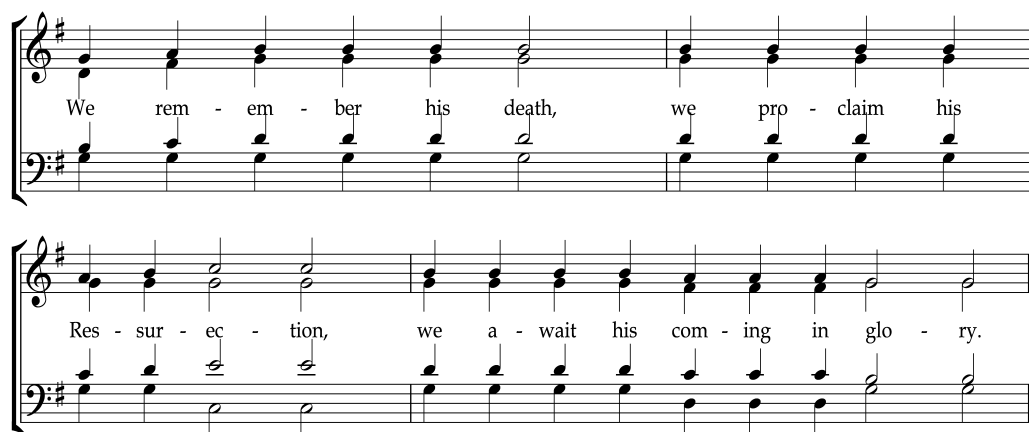
Haydn

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Kyiv Chant



THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

AGNUS DEI, *Missa Brevis*

Haydn

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest as you come forward. Gluten free hosts are available.

Prayers for Healing and Anointing of the Sick will take place at the Baptistry for those who wish after receiving Communion as well as at the conclusion of the Mass.

COMMUNION MOTET: *How beautiful upon the mountain*

John Stainer
(1840 – 1901)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of them that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER (said by ALL)

Presider Let us pray:

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ADVENT BLESSING

Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 73

St. Stephen

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY: *March on a theme of Handel*

Alexandre Guilmant
(1837 – 1911)



Announcements

Weekday Mass – *In the Cathedral* Tuesdays through Fridays at noon.

Dean's Forum - *Sunday, 10:15-11am in the Mercer Library*

Our *Nicea 2025* series wraps up this Sunday with a conversation about the Church.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals & Sign Up *December 14, 20 & 21*

Rehearsals for this year's 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant continue on Sundays in December, 10:15-11am, during Fellowship in Faith. To sign up, email Mo. Kate at ksalisbury@incarnationgc.org or fill out [this online form](#) to join the full cast dress rehearsal Saturday, December 20th, 10am-12 Noon. There's a part for every child!

Fellowship in Faith - *Sundays, 10-11am at the Mercer School*

During Advent, children who are not rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Pageant are invited to create their own Christmas icons! Inspired by the colorful work of Ukrainian artist Nastja Paruta-Dashko, whose icons of Jesus with children were recently brought to the Cathedral by Director of Music Larry Tremsky, we'll explore a different part of the Nativity story each week as we create our own works of sacred art.

Today: A Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4PM. The service is free and open to all. The full Cathedral Choirs will perform favorite and familiar carols in addition to some lesser-known works from around the world

Blue Christmas Mass - *Sunday, December 21 at 4pm* This healing service offers solace for those who are facing life after a loss. The Blue Christmas service allows a space to feel grief during a time when many people feel joy. All are welcome to attend.

Basic Christian Formation – *Beginning Sunday, January 11 at 10:15 am in the Mercer School.* A multi week course to engage questions of faith from a Christian perspective in the Anglican tradition. It serves both as a preparation for adult confirmation, reception or baptism, or as a refresher for those who want to renew their faith. Register on Realm.

Meditation and Contemplative Prayer – Mondays via zoom at 6:30pm see the Center for Spiritual Imagination website for links, as well as other upcoming events.

In Good Company with the Dean – This year, join the Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen, Dean of Long Island, for a new series of intimate evening gatherings across the Cathedral Close. These relaxed, 90-minute conversations are open to all and will explore the questions of theology, Christian spirituality, and life in community that matter most today.

First Gathering: "Why We Talk About God" *Wednesday, December 17 6:30-8:00pm | See House* - Discover how theology lives not only in books but also in our shared stories and daily life. This opening conversation will be held at See House, the historic former residence of the bishops of Long Island, now home to cathedral and diocesan offices. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 30 participants. Register on Realm.

On Sunday, December 14, the masses are in memory of James Albertelli from Anthony and Alison Parks. "It is holy and wholesome to remember those who have died," for they are at rest in the arms of God.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, have mercy.

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION
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