

Welcome to St. John's Church



Carl Spitzweg (1808-1885), German Romantic

The Feast of The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

*January 7, 2024
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. Box 1278

78 Green Hill Road

Washington, CT 06793

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

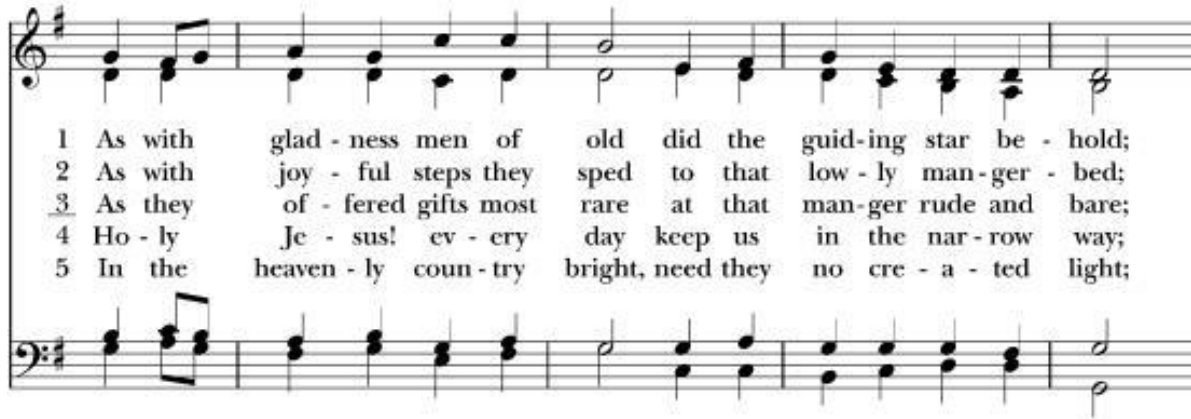
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Choral Prelude *Videntes Stellam Magi* Andrea Gabrieli (c. 1532-1585)

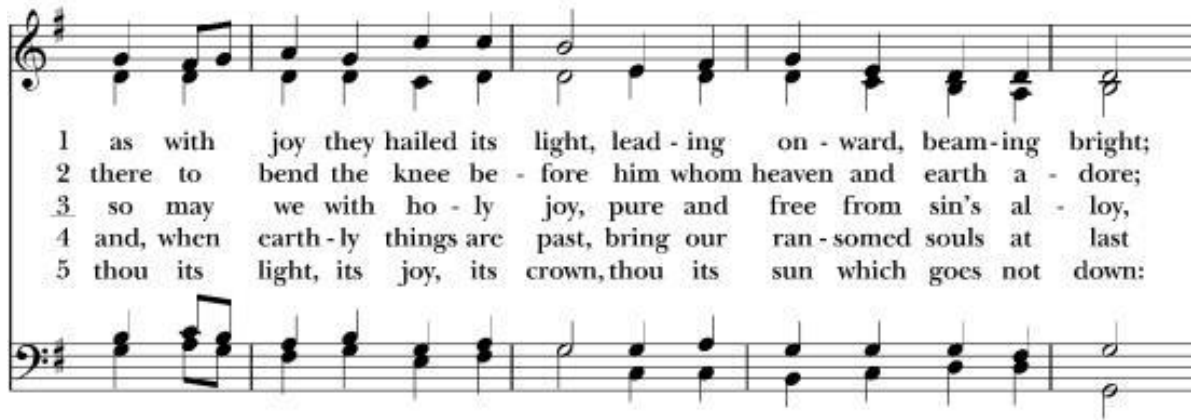
Translation: *Seeing the star, the magi rejoiced with great joy; and entering the house, they found the boy, with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And having opened their treasures, they offered Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

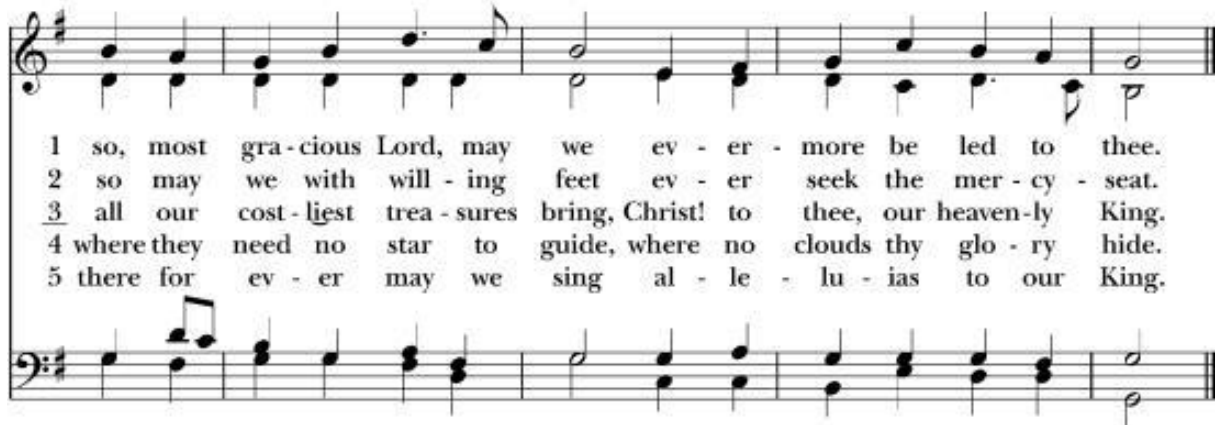
Opening Hymn # 119 *As With Gladness Men Of Old*



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;
4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;



1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:



1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.
4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Celebrant Blessed be our God.

People ***For ever and ever. Amen.***

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.***

The Kyrie S# 91

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Gloria *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Translation: *Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:*

*have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

For you alone are the Holy One,

*you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,*

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: In our Hebrew Scripture reading, the prophet envisions the end of exile and the glorious restoration of Jerusalem.

A Reading from the Scroll of Isaiah (60:1-6)


Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*

Refrain



All na - tions shall be - hold the won - ders God has done.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

INTRODUCTION: Here is set forth the great theme of Paul's apostolic commission: the revealed mystery that Christ's salvation extends beyond Judaism to include all peoples.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual Hymn # 124

What Star Is This With Beams So Bright

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

INTRODUCTION: Our Gospel is the story of the wise men from the east, who guided by a star, come to worship the child born to be king.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where

the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, priest-in-charge

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

It is in following the Light that we discover the truth. With the love of God to guide our footsteps, let us journey to the new Bethlehem and offer our prayers to the Holy Child, responding, “Hear us, O God of Glory.”

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ For the light of hope which illumines the depths of reality and releases our hearts to offer the treasures of our souls; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ For the fragile stirrings of peace sown in troubled places throughout the world, that freedom may flourish, and its fruits bring hope to those most in need; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ For the forgiveness of our sins: our greed and narrow-mindedness, our selfishness and misuse of power, our misjudgment of one another, that we may acknowledge our faults and turn to the all-merciful love of God; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That we may be humbled in the presence of the poor, bending the knee of our hearts to those who have no defender, and to those whose economic and personal distress pains us to encounter; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ For those who are suffering with illness and for those who bear a private grief, that the Holy Comforter may bring them relief from their burdens; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ For all that is to be revealed to us during this new year: the joys, the disappointments, the struggles, the new directions, and insights; that through all our journeys we may know the Messiah as our constant companion; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ For a generosity of spirit, that through the delight of giving treasures rich and rare, we may share a common bounty and support a shared mission; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ In thanksgiving for the Body and Blood of Christ, a foretaste of that heavenly banquet upon which the faithful departed continually feast; let us pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

In companionship with the angels of light, we continue our prayers either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the confession

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Offertory *The Coming Of Joy*

Percy Buck (1871-1947)

Now to the earth in mercy a Saviour is given, See! for a ransom a Child is descended from Heaven; Kings bring him presents, and angels extol Him with singing, Rose of the world! for our joy from a Virgin upspringing. Bring Him not gold, no splendour His kingdom requireth; Nay! bring not frankincense, He no burnt offerings desireth; Bring Him not myrrh, over Him death hath no domination; Throne of our love! we our hearts bring in pure adoration.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S#

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

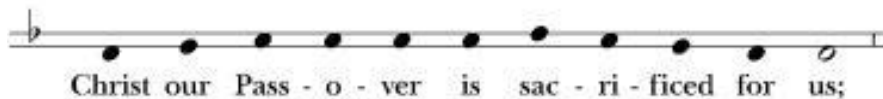
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

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

*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 S # 153

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
 A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*



Agnus Dei *"In Dulci Jubilo"* Communion Service

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

INSTRUCTIONS: *Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest so to indicate.*

Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask at the altar rail if you wish one.

Communion Hymn # 313

Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured

1 Let thy Blood in mer - cy poured, let thy gra - cious
2 Thou didst die that I might live; bless - ed Lord, thou
3 By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear-wound
4 Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my pen - i -

Bo - dy bro - ken, be to me, O gra - cious Lord,
cam'st to save me; all that love of God could give
and the nail - ing, by the pain and death, I now
tence I give thee; thou art my ex - alt - ed King,

Refrain
of thy bound-less love the to - ken.
Jes - us by his sor - rows gave me. Thou didst give thy -
claim, O Christ, thy love un - fail - ing.
of thy match-less love for - give me.

self for me, now I give my - self to thee.

for online worshippers, and for those who for other reasons choose not to receive, here is a Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest desire that we may always be united to you. And since we are not now receiving you physically, we ask you to come into our hearts spiritually. We embrace you with all the affections of our souls, confident that nothing can ever separate us from the love God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Abiding Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 127 *Earth Has Many A Noble City*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Earth Has Many A Noble City". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first five lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next five lines. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

1 Earth has man - ya no - ble ci - ty; Beth-lehem, thou dost all ex - cel:
2 Fair - er than the sun at morn - ing was the star that told his birth,
3 East - ern sa - ges at his cra - dle make ob - la - tions rich and rare;
4 Sa - cred gifts of mys - tic mean - ing; in - cense doth their God dis - close,
5 Je - sus, whom the Gen - tiles wor - shipped at thy glad e - piph - a - ny,

1 out of thee the Lord from hea - ven came to rule his Is - ra - el.
2 to the world its God an - nounc - ing seen in flesh - ly form on earth.
3 see them give, in deep de - vo - tion, gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh.
4 gold the King of kings pro - claim - eth, myrrh his sep - ul - cher fore - shows.
5 un - to thee, with God the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit, glo - ry be.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

John Magee: *8:00 Reader*

Rebecca Bent: *10:00 Reader*

Rebecca Bent: *Chalicer*

Fr. Geoff: *VeeJay*

Mary Davis: *Coffee Hour Hostess*

MB Witt, Susie Magee: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Staff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Priest-in-Charge*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*

Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

Mary Davis, Jay Bauer: *Wardens*

David Gillespie: *Treasurer*

Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*

Laura Daly: *Clerk*

Class of 2023

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt

Laura Daly: **Alternate**