

## MIDNIGHT MASS

### Introit

1 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.

2 O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.

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

4 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.

### **Collect**

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one  
true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of  
that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Isaiah 52.7–10**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see

the return of the Lord to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

### **Hebrews 1.1–4**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

### **John 1.1–14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through

him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **Offertory Hymn**

1 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 all,  
from heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

4 For lo! the days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

### **Communion Anthem**

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
iacentem in praesepe!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Iesum Christum.

Alleluia!

*English translation:*

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!