



# THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25, 2021 10:00 AM

### The Holy Eucharist

*¶ The service follows the Order for Holy Eucharist  
beginning on page 323 of The Book of Common Prayer*

*¶ The musical setting of the Mass Ordinary is the  
Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena of Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

#### Organ Voluntary

*In dulci jubilo* (s.729)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

#### Hymn at the Procession 105

GOD REST YOU MERRY

#### Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed ✠ be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Collect for Purity

*¶ The Celebrant says*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, UNTO WHOM ALL HEARTS ARE 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. *¶ People Amen.*

**Gloria in excelsis** *¶ The music may be found at S-202 in the Hymnal 1982*

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory † of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.





He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of *Israel*; \*  
and all the ends of the world have seen the sal-*vation of our God*.

Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye *lands*; \*  
sing, *rejoice, and give thanks*.

Praise the Lord upon the *harp*; \*  
sing to the harp with a psalm *of thanksgiving*.

With trumpets also and *shawms*, \*  
O show yourselves joyful be-*fore the Lord, the King*.

Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein *is*; \*  
the round world, and *they that dwell therein*.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before  
the *Lord*; \*  
for he is *come to judge the earth*.

With righteousness shall he judge the *world*, \*  
and the peo-*ples with equity*.

## The Epistle

HEBREWS I:1-12

**I**N MANY AND VARIOUS WAYS GOD SPOKE of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “Who makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore

God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades.” And, “Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*¶ All stand for the singing of the Hymn and Gospel Procession*

Hymn at the Sequence 82

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

The Gospel

JOHN 1:1-14

*Gospeler* ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**I**N THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Peter James Speropulos

*¶ Following the Sermon, all stand and say together*

## 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;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
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 Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
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.

‡ *All kneel*

## The Prayers of the People

‡ *The Deacon says these Prayers*

**A**LMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless † thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Michael and All Angels, Blessed George, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ‡ *People Amen.*

## Confession of Sin

### *¶ Celebrant and People*

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 newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *¶ Then the Celebrant stands, pronounces Absolution*

**A**lmighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who 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.

*¶ People Amen.*

### *¶ The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following Comfortable Words*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.  
*Matthew 11:28*



God so 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.

*John 3:16*

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*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

*1 John 2:1–2*

*¶ All stand*

## The Peace

*Celebrant*    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        And with thy spirit.

*¶ Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord;  
This may be done with a wave or a bow; please observe social distancing and  
refrain from physical contact with those from outside your household*

## Announcements

*The Church of St. Michael & St. George is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who donate as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your donation in the collection plate or use the QR code below to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to our annual commitments from our parishioners.*



# The Holy Communion

## Carol at the Offertory

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!*

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
your evetime song, ye singers.

*Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934)*

*Music: Anonymous; 16th cent. French Carol; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

¶ *Following the singing of the Carol, all stand to sing*

## Hymn at the Presentation 107

IN DULCI JUBILO

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit

¶ *S-114 in the Hymnal 1982*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

¶ *The People kneel*

**A**LL GLORY BE TO THEE, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ 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 memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, 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 Testament, 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.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, 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 innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly 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 here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled ✠ with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are 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 offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. ♣ *All* AMEN.

## The Lord's Prayer

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 Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept; then is sung*

**Agnus Dei** *¶ The music may be found at S-158 in the Hymnal 1982*

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.

### The Prayer of Humble Access

**W**e 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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

### The Invitation and Ministration of Communion

*¶ All Christians baptized with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the Ushers on when to come forward. Please continue to wear your mask and, to maintain distancing, form two single file lines down the center aisle, at six-foot intervals in household units. To receive the Bread, extend your palms, crossed and upward; then return to your seat, then consume the Bread.*

*¶ Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.*

*¶ Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing; please indicate this to the Priest by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## Carol at the Communion

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal:  
See on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ from heav'n descending low, Comes on earth a stranger;  
Ox and ass their owner know Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,  
Soe he gave the world to slay, and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild This the Christmas story;  
And O that Mary's gentle Child Might lead us up to glory.

O and A, and A and O, cum cantibus in choro,  
Let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino.

*Words: English traditional*

*Music: Traditional English carol; arr. David Willcocks*

## The Postcommunion Prayer *✠ Said by all kneeling*

**A**LMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## The Christmas Blessing †

‡ *The Celebrant blesses the People*

**M**AY ALMIGHTY GOD, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *People Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *People Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *People Amen.*

And the blessing † of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *People Amen.*

‡ *All stand*

## The Dismissal

‡ *The People are dismissed with these words*

∇. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

℞. Thanks be to God.

Hymn at the Retiring Procession 100

ANTIOCH

*The Rector, Clergy, and Staff of The Church of St. Michael & St. George  
wish you a very blessed and joyous Christmas.*



THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson     *Assistant Rector*

The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey     *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem     *Priest Associate*

Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler     *Acting Organist and Choirmaster*

Kathleen Guilfooy Beyers     *Assistant Choirmaster*

