



**SAINT JOHN'S MALONE**

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The Adoration of the Child c1620 G van Hornthorst

**THE ORDER OF  
THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
at 11.15 p.m.**



*The Choir and Clergy being assembled at the west door all shall stand to sing:*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 172**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born, the King of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:

3 See how the shepherds,  
summoned to the cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

**Blessing of the Crib**

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation:

bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life  
he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

*All Amen.*

4 Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our hearts' obligations:

6 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:

7a Yea, Lord, we greet,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father  
now in flesh appearing:

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The Presiding Minister says:*

Welcome all wonders in one sight!  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
heaven in earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

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

*All say*

**Almighty God**  
**to whom all hearts are open,**  
**all desires known,**  
**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**  
**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.**

## **PENITENCE**

### **THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

*The response is:* **Lord, have mercy on us,  
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

*The priest says the following sentence.*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments, and to live in love and peace.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:

forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The presiding minister pronounces the absolution:*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw you to himself, that you may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT**

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

*Silence*

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 our Lord. *Amen*

### **PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING OF THE WORD**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

**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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **THE PSALM: 96**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a | new | song; ||  
sing to the | Lord, | all the | earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and | bless his | name; ||  
tell out his sal|vation • from | day to | day.
- 3 Declare his glory a|mong the | nations ||  
and his | wonders • a|mong all | peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and | greatly • to be | praised; ||  
he is more to be | feared than | all | gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations | are but | idols; ||  
it is the | Lord who | made the | heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty | are be|fore him; ||  
power and | splendour • are | in his | sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the | peoples; ||  
ascribe to the | Lord | honour • and | strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour | due • to his | name; ||  
bring offerings and | come in|to his | courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the | beauty • of | holiness; ||  
let the | whole earth | tremble • be|fore him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the | Lord is | king. ||  
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will | judge the | peoples • with | equity.

11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the | earth be | glad; ||  
let the sea | thunder · and | all · that is | in it;  
12 Let the fields be joyful and | all · that is | in them; ||  
let all the trees of the wood shout for | joy be|fore the | Lord.  
† 13 For he comes, he comes to | judge the | earth; ||  
with righteousness he will judge the world  
and the | peoples | with his | truth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning ·  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

### **THE EPISTLE:**

### **Hebrews 1: 1-4**

1 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, <sup>\*</sup> 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 <sup>\*</sup> 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.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **GRADUAL HYMN 164**

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 earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!';  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.



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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the words of peace they bring:  
O hush the noise of human strife,  
to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## **THE GOSPEL:**

**Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20**

*(The congregation turns to face the Gospel reader)*

Today Christ is born:

**alleluia.**

Today the Saviour has come:

**alleluia.**

Today the angels sing on earth:

**alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.**

*The Gospel is introduced:*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John in the first chapter beginning at verse one

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

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.

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

**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,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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 POEPL

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God  
**hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at  
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,  
Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ

Merciful Father  
**accept these our prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

## **THE PEACE**

*All stand*

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Members of the congregation offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN 179**

See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
    see the tender Lamb appears,  
    promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
    sing through all Jerusalem:  
    'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
    he who, throned in height sublime,  
    sits amid the cherubim!

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
    sing through all Jerusalem:  
    'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
what your joyful news today;  
    wherefore have ye left your sheep  
    on the lonely mountain steep?

As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
    angels singing "Peace on earth"  
    told us of the Saviour's birth'.

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
    thus to come from highest bliss  
    down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
    teach us to resemble thee,  
    in thy sweet humility.

## **CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **Preparation of the Table**

### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Father, almighty and everliving God,

at all times and in all places

it is right to give you thanks and praise:

You have given Jesus Christ your only Son

to be born of the Virgin Mary,

and through him you have given us power to become the children of God:

And so with all your people,

with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

*sung*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father,

the creator and sustainer of all things;

you made us in your own image,

male and female you created us;

even when we turned away from you,

you never ceased to care for us,

but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,

giving your only begotten Son to become man

and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world:  
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death  
until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for  
this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we do as Christ your Son commanded:  
**we remember his passion and death,**  
**we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,**  
**and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**  
Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,  
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit  
that we may be made one in your holy Church  
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,  
that he may dwell in us and we in him:  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**





*All kneel*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body,**

**for we all share in the one bread.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**Lord, give us this bread always.**

*Agnus Dei is sung*

**THE COMMUNION** *Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.*

*Communicants are given the consecrated bread and wine with the words  
The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.  
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.  
And the communicant replies; **Amen.***

**Motet:** O holy night - Adolphe Adam

### **THE GREAT SILENCE**

*Let us pray (All kneel)*

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; Confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

*All say:*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**Blessing:** May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

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 160**

- 1 Hark! The herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark ! the herald angels sing  
Glory 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 us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
- 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 we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
**Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

*Organ: Postlude on Mendelssohn – Sir David Willcocks*



## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS IN ST JOHN'S MALONE 2022 / 2023**

### **Advent IV Sunday 18th December**

**10.30am** Nine Lessons & Carols - Parish Carol Service

**Christmas Eve** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December

11.15pm The First Eucharist of Christmas

**Christmas Day** Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

**9.00am** The Eucharist

**10.30am** A Christmas Morning Service

**St Stephen's Day** 26 December Eucharist 10.30am

**St John's Day** 27 December Eucharist 10.30am

**The Holy Innocents** 28 December 10.30am

**Christmas I** Sunday 1st January 2023 **The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus**

**9:00am Eucharist** *said in the Side Chapel*

**10.30am** Eucharist

**The Epiphany of Our Lord** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**9:00am Eucharist** *said in the Side Chapel* ; **10.30am** Sunday First & Holy  
Baptism

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