

**St. Mary the Virgin
Anglican Catholic Parish**

Oakwood Memorial Park • 22607 Lassen Street
Chatsworth, California 91311 (747) 204-6602

<http://www.stmaryanglican.org>

The Right Reverend Anthony F. Rasch, Rector

The Rev. Deacon John Yeager, Assisting

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent
and the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle**

21 December 2025

High Mass



Lighting of the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath

The Litany or General Supplication

(<http://www.stmaryanglican.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Litany.pdf>)

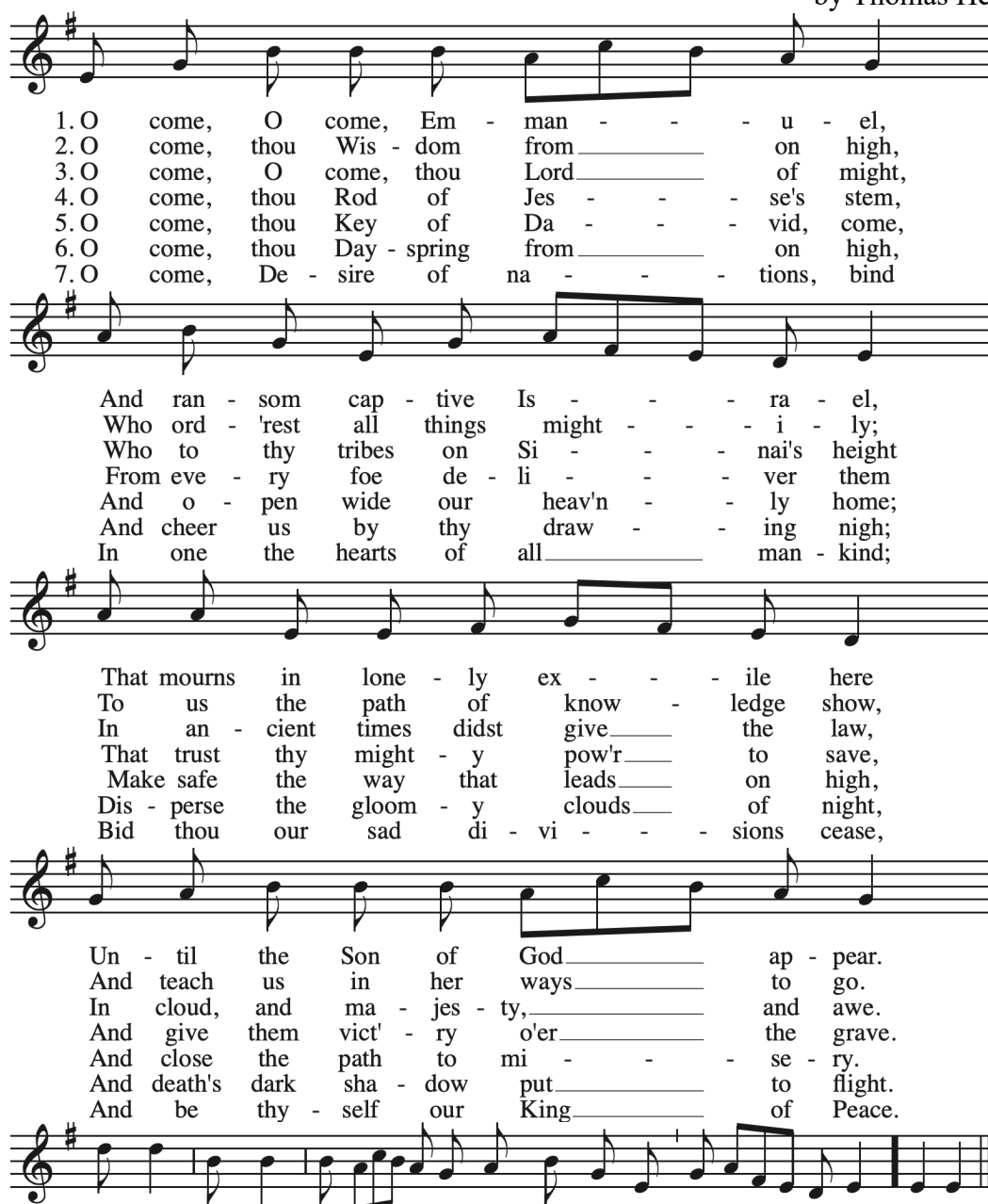
BCP 54

Processional (Asperges)

Veni Emmanuel

Hymn 2

Adapted from plainsong, Mode I
by Thomas Helmore, 1854



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high,
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
4. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se's stem,
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come,
6. O come, thou Day - spring from on high,
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind

And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
Who ord - 'rest all things might - i - ly;
Who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height
From eve - ry foe de - li - ver them
And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
And cheer - us by thy draw - ing night;
In one the hearts of all man - kind;

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
To us the path of know - ledge show,
In an - cient times didst give the law,
That trust thy might - y pow'r to save,
Make safe the way that leads on high,
Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
Bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And teach us in her ways to go.
In cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
And give them vict' - ry o'er the grave.
And close the path to mi - se - ry.
And death's dark sha - dow put to flight.
And be thy - self our King of Peace.

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man-u-el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra-el! Amen.

Hymnal Version, based on Latin, c. 9th cent.; St. 1, 3-6, pub. Cologne, 1710

Introit

Collect for Purity

Summary of the Law

BCP 67

69

Kyrie Eleison

Hymn 702

John Merbecke, 1549



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

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Collect for Saint Thomas the Apostle

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who, for the greater confirmation of the faith, didst suffer thy holy Apostle Thomas to be doubtful in thy Son's resurrection; Grant us so perfectly, and without all doubt, to believe in thy Son Jesus Christ, that our faith in thy sight may never be reprov'd. Hear us, O Lord, through the same Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Collect for the Advent Season

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Benedictus (St. Luke i. 68)

Hymn **640**/BCP 14

BLESSED be the Lord God of | Israel; * for he hath visited and re|deemed • his **people**;
And hath raised up a mighty sal|vation for us, * in the house of his | servant **David**;
As he spake by the mouth of his | holy Prophets, * which have | been • since the | world began;
That we should be saved | from our enemies, * and from the hand of | all that **hate** us.
To perform the mercy promised to our | **forefathers**, * and to remember his | holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather | Abraham, * that | he would **give** us;
That we being delivered out of the | hand of • our enemies * might | serve him • **without** fear;
In holiness and righteous|ness before him, * all the | days of **our** life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet | of the Highest: * for thou shalt go before the face of the |
Lord • to pre|pare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation | unto • his people * for the re|mission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy | of our God; * whereby the day-spring from on | high hath | visit•ed us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the | shadow • of death,
* and to guide our feet | into • the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,
and | to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,
world without | **end. Amen.**

The Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

95

BRETHREN: Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Gradual and Alleluia

The Gospel

St. John 1:19-28

95



Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord.

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Praise - be to thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

71

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 worshipped and glorified; Who spake

by the Prophets: And I believe one 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.*

Announcements

Sermon Hymn

St. Cecilia

Hymn 544

Leighton G. Hayne, 1863



1. Thy king - dom come, O God! Thy rule, O Christ, be - gin!
2. Where is thy reign of peace, And pu - ri - ty and love?
3. When comes the pro - mised time That war shall be no more,
4. We pray thee, Lord, a - rise, And come in thy great might;
5. O'er hea - then lands a - far Thick dark - ness brood - eth yet:



Break with thine i - ron rod The tyr - an - nies of sin! A-men.
 When shall all ha - tred cease, As in the realms a - bove?
 Op - pres - sion, lust, and crime Shall flee thy face be - fore?
 Re - vive our long - ing eyes, Which lan - guish for thy sight.
 A - rise, O Morn - ing Star, A - rise, and ne - ver set!

Lewis Hensley, 1867

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Anthony F. Rasch

Offertory Verse and Sentences

Offertory Hymn

St. Thomas

Hymn 5, 1st Tune

J. F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751



1. Lo! he comes, with clouds de-scen-ding, Once for our sal - va - tion slain;
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be-hold him, Robed in dread - ful ma - jes - ty;
3. Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion Still his daz - zling bo - dy bears,
4. Yea, A - men! let all a - dore thee, High on thine e - ter - nal throne;



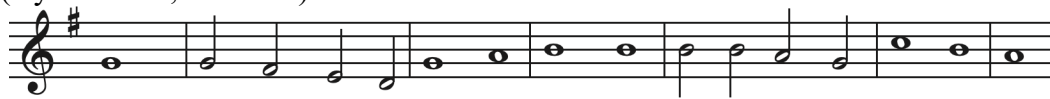
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph of his train:
 Those who set at naught and sold him, Pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
 Cause of end - less ex - ult - a - tion To his ran - somed wor - ship - pers:
 Sa - viour, take the pow'r and glo - ry; Claim the king - dom for thine own:



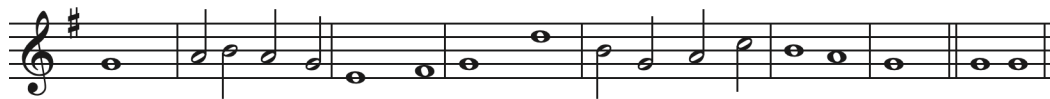
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign. A-men.
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign and thou a - lone.

Charles Wesley, 1758, alt.

Doxology (Hymnal 139, 1st verse)



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;



Praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Amen.

Bidding Prayers

Orate, Fratres

Celebrant: Brethren, pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: The Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name; both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church

74

General Confession

75

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 honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

76

The Comfortable Words

76

Sursum Corda

76



The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.



Lift up your hearts



We lift them up unto the Lord

Priest

Let us give _____ thanks _____ un - to _____ our Lord _____ God.

All

It is meet _____ and right so _____ to do _____

Preface

77

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymn 797
Healey Willan, 1928

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord God of hosts,

heav-en and earth are full _____ of _____ thy glo - ry:

Glo - - - ry be to thee, oh Lord most High.

Bless - ed _____ is he that com - eth _____ in _____ the

name _____ of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the _____ high - est.

Prayer of Consecration

80

Celebrant: Let us pray : And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 722
Traditional, very ancient

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, Hal-low-ed be thy Name. Thy king-dom come.

Thy will be done, On earth as it _____ is _____ in hea-ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread.

And for-give us our tres-pass-es, As we for-give those who tres-pass a-against us.



And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For thine is the king - dom, And the pow'r, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er.



A - men. —

The Fracture

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Agnus Dei

Hymn 712
Healey Willan, 1928



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way — the sins of the world, —



have mer - cy up - on — us.



O Lamb of God, — that ta - kest a - way — the sins of the world,



have mer - cy up - on — us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way — the sins of the world, —



grant — us thy — peace.

Prayer of Humble Access

82

By traditional use, prayed by the Priest on behalf of all who will receive. By St. Mary's usage, the congregation may join in praying aloud:

WE 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

Communion Verse

Communion of the Faithful

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People: (3x) Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

For those attending in person, we have resumed the custom of kneeling or standing at the Altar Rail to Receive. Here are the various Ways of Receiving:

- 1. Receive the Host into your hands, or directly onto the tongue.
Receive directly from the Chalice, guiding it gently by the base.*
- 2. Receive by Intinction, receiving the Host into your hands and leaving it there; the Deacon will take it and dip it in the Chalice and place it onto your tongue.*
- 3. You may receive only the Host of itself, either in your hands or on your tongue. Our Lord is equally present in either Form.*

As a precaution and courtesy to others and for your own safety, we respectfully request that in the event you are currently suffering from a cold or other communicable illness, please refrain from receiving from the Chalice.

For those attending remotely: Please take a moment of silence to realize the presence of Jesus Christ in your soul and make your spiritual communion.

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood have been offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of Thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch Thy Body, so the soul of Thy servant may be healed by like faith in Thee, Whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through Thy tender mercy, Who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

Communion Hymn
Sleepers, Wake

Hymn 3
Philip Nicolai, 1599

1. Wake, a-wake, for night is fly - ing: The watch-men on the heights are
 2. Si - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, Her heart with deep de - light is
 3. Lamb of God, the heav'n's a - dore thee, And men and an - gels sing be -
 cry - ing, A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise! Mid - night's sol - emn
 spring - ing. She wakes, she ri - ses from her gloom: Forth her Bride - groom
 fore thee, With harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone. By the pearl - y
 hour is toll - ing, His cha - riot wheels are near - er roll - ing,
 comes, all glo - rious, In grace ar - rayed, by truth vic - to - rious;
 gates in won - der We stand, and swell the voice of thun - der
 He comes; pre - pare, ye vir - gins wise. Rise up, with will - ing feet Go
 Her star is ris'n, her light is come! All hail, In - car - nate Lord, Our
 That e - choes round thy daz - zling throne. No vi - sion ev - er brought, No
 forth, the Bride-groom meet: Al - le - lu - ia! Bear through the night Your
 crown, and our re - ward! Al - le - lu - ia! We haste a - long, In
 ear hath ev - er caught Such re - joice - ing: We raise the song, We
 well - trimmed light, Speed forth to join the mar - riage rite. A - men.
 pomp of song, And glad - some join the mar - riage throng.
 swell the throng, To praise thee a - ges all a - long.

Philip Nicolai, 1597; Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

83

By traditional use, prayed by the Priest. By St. Mary's usage, the congregation may join in praying aloud:

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. 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 honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Post-Communion Prayers

Dismissal

Episcopal Blessing

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord

People: From this time forth forever more.

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord

People: Who hath made heaven and earth.

Bishop: The Peace of God, which passeth 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 God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Last Gospel (may be said here)

Celebrant: ✠The Beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

St. John 1:1-14

97

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

Retiring Processional:
Merton

Hymn 9
William Henry Monk, 1850

1. Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is nigh," it
2. Wa - ken'd by the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the earth - bound
3. Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with par - don
4. So when next he comes with glo - ry, And the world is
5. Ho - nor, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing To the Fa - ther

seems to say; "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
soul a - rise; Christ, her sun, all sloth dis - pell - ing,
down from heav'n; Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, May he with his mer - cy shield us,
and the Son, With the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit

O ye chil - dren of the day." A - men.
Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
One and all to be for - giv'n
And with words of love draw near.
While un - end - ing a - ges run.

Latin, c. 6th cent.; Tr. Edward Caswall, 1849, alt.

Announcements

Celebrant	The Right Reverend Anthony F. Rasch
Assisting	The Reverend Deacon John Yeager
Litanist, Cantor, and Lector	Ken Kubo, Candidate for Holy Orders
Epistoler and Crozier Bearer	Robert Jones
Thurifer and Acolyte	Tony Shehata
Crucifer and Acolyte	Robert Yeager
Acolyte in Training	Evan Sears
Altar Guild	Beth Kubo
Zoom Wrangler	Landon Melamed

Welcome to our Visitors this morning. Please sign the Visitor Register just inside Church Entrance. You are cordially invited to join us in the Parish Hall following the Mass for coffee and refreshments.

Christmas Eve Mass on the 24th begins a 9:00 pm with a Service of Carols, to be followed at 9:30 pm with the Solemn High Mass of the Nativity (the Christ Mass). *Please note:* the front gate will be closed after 9:30 pm and will not be unlocked for exiting until after Mass has ended.

It was decided by a show of hands last Sunday that there was *no interest* in having a Mass on Christmas Day, as those present last Sunday plan on attending on Christmas Eve. SO PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

Parish Christmas Party will be hosted by Debbie and Peter Ruiz on the afternoon of Sunday the 28th. Debbie has in mind an arrival time of 4:00 pm. Debbie is providing all dinner, dessert, etc. And of course there will be a gift exchange after. The gift should be something you yourself would like to receive.

Today is the day to bring donations of inexpensive personal items, gift-wrapped in advance with Christmas paper, and labeled for a Man or a Woman. They may be brought forward to the front pews during the Announcements. After Mass, they will be taken to the Emerald Convalescent Hospital for distribution to elderly patients who are bereft of family. If you brought a gift, thank you and God bless you!