

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

SOLEMN MASS

December 19, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in the City of New York

Godspeed, Father Rector

Today, Father Stephen Gerth celebrates the Holy Eucharist for the last time as rector of Saint Mary's. He has served as rector here since February 1, 1999. He celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the first time at Saint Mary's on Tuesday, February 2, 1999, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. Father Gerth grew up in the Commonwealth of Virginia and, in his youth, spent summers with family in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he studied philosophy; the University of Chicago, where he studied South Asian history and Urdu Language and Literature; and Nashotah House Seminary, where he was granted the degree Master of Divinity.

Brought up the Southern Baptist tradition, Father Gerth began to explore the Episcopal Church when he was in college. While at the University of Chicago, he applied, and was accepted, for the M.B.A. program at the University of Virginia. Shortly after that, he was surprised when a priest he knew asked, "When are you going to do something about your vocation to the priesthood?" He postponed admission to the M.B.A. program to apply for postulancy. At Nashotah, he studied with one of our church's great liturgists, the Reverend Dr. Louis Weil. After graduation and ordination in the spring of 1983, Father Gerth bought a tippet and headed South, where he served as an assistant priest at the Church of the Incarnation, Dallas. After two years there, he was called to serve as a curate at Saint Luke's Church, Baton Rouge, under then Father, later Bishop, Charles Jenkins. In December 1988, he was called to serve as rector of Trinity Church, Michigan City, Indiana. At Trinity, he developed his enduring concern for Christian education and his commitment to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. In addition to Father Weil and Bishop Jenkins, the rector claims two other members of the clergy as mentors, Rabbi Edwin Friedman and his uncle, the Reverend Lawrence Matthews, who introduced him to Friedman's workshops on Bowen Family Systems Theory as applied to the life of congregations.

In recent years, Father Gerth has been supported by his husband, Richard Mohammed, who has contributed in many and generous ways to the life of the parish.

Father Gerth is the IX rector of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. He has led the parish through some of New York's most challenging moments. He has done so with intelligence, courage, a deep awareness of the parish's history, and an abiding concern for its people. We are grateful to him for his ministry, and we wish him and Richard Godspeed.

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About the Music

The organ prelude today is the more extended of two organ settings for *Magnificat* on the first psalm-tone by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707). This piece divides clearly into two principal sections, each with four sub-sections and a coda. While bits of the fantasia style are in evidence, most of the sub-sections are clearly in imitative counterpoint. Some researchers have taken pains to identify the first psalm-tone as it lay concealed in Buxtehude's counterpoint. A debate centers on whether the sub-sections of this work were intended to be performed *in alternatim* with verses of *Magnificat* sung to chant, or if the entire piece should be played continuously without the insertion of chant verses. As is often the case, distinguished historic music lends itself to a variety of reasonable interpretations. What remains is for musicians to find performance solutions appropriate to the occasion and let the hearer delight.

The Mass setting this morning is the *Mass in G minor* by the noted English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958). This Mass was composed in 1921 and is dedicated to another noted English composer, Gustav Holst (1874–1934), and the Whitsuntide Singers at Thaxted in north Essex. Its first performance was in concert by the City of Birmingham Choir on December 6, 1922. While first performed in concert, The *Mass in G minor* was intended to be sung liturgically and was subsequently premiered as such at Westminster Cathedral under the direction of Sir Richard Terry. Vaughan Williams's Mass is clearly in his own distinctive twentieth-century musical vocabulary, but it derives its sonic and affective character from the great heritage of English choral composition of earlier centuries. His Mass is often considered the most significant English work of its kind since the sixteenth century, and it has been an inspiration to many composers who have followed Vaughan Williams. The original conception is a work for double chorus and four soloists. This morning four of its movements will be performed by a choir of eight singers and the differentiation between choruses and soloists will merge more into a unified choral texture.

The Communion motet today is the Magnificat by Herbert Howells (1892–1983) from his Collegium Regale ("King's College") settings. Howells's great contribution to Anglican church music is his several "services" designed for particular cathedrals, parishes, and collegiate chapels. Each of these "services" responds musically to the architecture, acoustic and musical tradition of the place for which it was composed. Of all Howells's services, those designated Collegium Regale are the most complete set. Howells's association with Cambridge dated from 1941 when he became acting organist at Saint John's College, replacing Robin Orr who had been called away to service in World War II. In 1944, at the urging of the then dean of neighboring King's College, Eric Milner-White, Howells composed the Collegium Regale morning canticles, Te Deum and Jubilate. The following year he added to the Collegium Regale settings by composing evening canticles Magnificat and Nunc dimittis. It is this Magnificat that is sung this morning. Finally, in 1956 Howells completed his Collegium Regale collection by setting The Office of Holy Communion. Howells's Collegium Regale settings all feature an extraordinarily expressive partnership between voices and organ. Howells's Song of Mary for King's College begins with a subtle and reflective gentleness and ends with an exuberant and mighty Gloria Patri.

The postlude today is by the celebrated African American composer Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941), currently professor of composition at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. In Hailstork's *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"* one can hear fragments of the fifteenth-century Advent hymn *O come*, *O come Emmanuel*, based upon the "O" Antiphons, although the entire chant melody is never stated as such. The unusual meter of five beats to the bar gives the Toccata a curious off-balanced rhythmic energy, and the harmonic dissonances may reflect a world in chaos awaiting the birth of the Savior

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The Prelude

Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

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Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021

Music for Choir, Brass, and Congregation 4:30 PM

Procession and Solemn Mass 5:00 PM

The Reverend James Ross Smith, Celebrant & Preacher

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Solemn Mass & Procession to the Crèche 11:00 AM The Reverend Dr. Matthew Daniel Jacobson, Celebrant & Preacher

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

The Entrance Song

All stand at the signal of the bell. The ministers of the assembly enter, and the Choir sings the appointed Introit.

Rorate coeli desuper, et nubes pluant iustum: aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.
Coeli enarrant gloriam Dei: et opera manuum eius annuntiat firmamentum.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

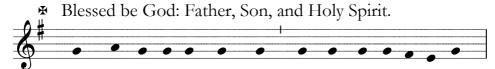
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

Glory to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

The Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant sings



People And bless-ed be his king-dom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

Setting: Louis Weil (b. 1935)

The Song of Praise

The Choir sings Kyrie eleison. The setting is Mass in G minor by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958).

Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.Kyrie eleison.Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant sings

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All AMEN.

The Lessons

All are seated for the Lessons. The first Lesson, Micah 5:2–4, is now read. After the Lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Congregation sings Psalm 80:1–7 to plainsong tone 2.1.



Cantor 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a / flock; *
All shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the / cherubim.

- In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma-/nasseh, * stir up your strength and come / to help us.
- Restore us, O God of / hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we / shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of / hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of / your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears; * you have given them bowls of / tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, * and our enemies laugh / us to scorn.
- Restore us, O God of / hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we / shall be saved.

The second Lesson, Hebrews 10:5–10, is now read. After the Lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

All stand. The ministers of the assembly prepare for the Gospel as Alleluia and the appointed verse are sung.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Veni, Domine, et noli tardare:
relaxa facinora plebis tuae.

Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Lord, and do not delay.
Pardon the sins of your people.
Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

A Minister proclaims the Gospel, first singing

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Minister

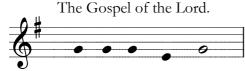
▼ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



People

Glo-ry to you, Lord Christ.

The appointed Gospel, Luke 1:39–56, is now proclaimed. After the Gospel, the Minister sings



People

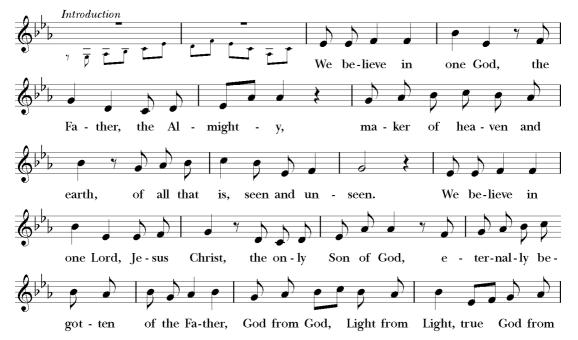
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

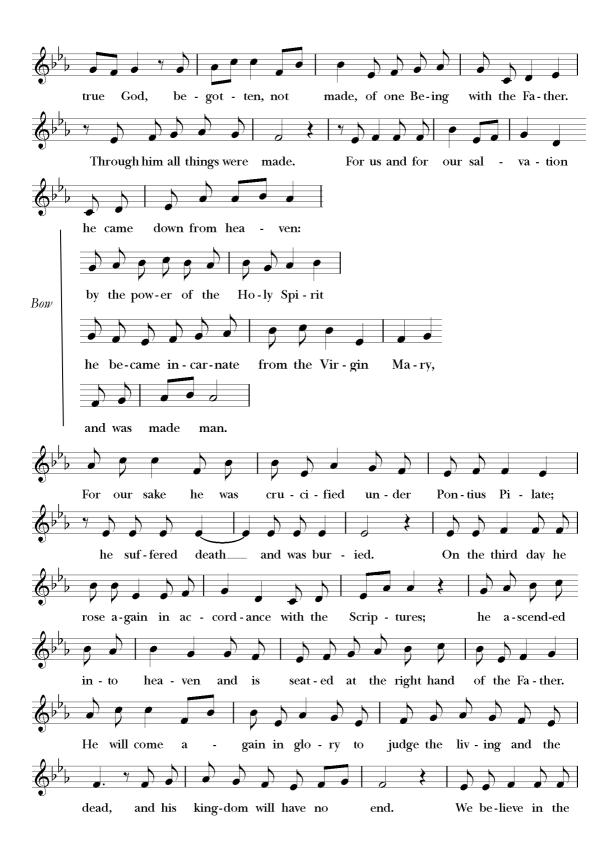
The Sermon

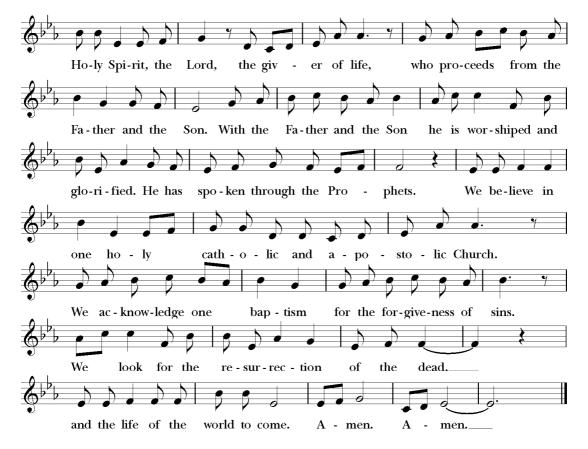
The Reverend Stephen Gerth

The Nicene Creed

All stand. The Creed is sung by all.



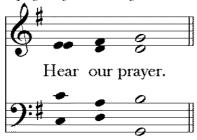




Setting: Calvin Hampton (1938–1984)

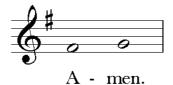
The Prayers of the People

A Minister bids the prayers of the assembly. At the end of each petition the People sing



Setting: David Hurd (b. 1950)

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect. The People respond



The Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept. Then the Celebrant says

Most merciful God,

All we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, ♣ forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power

of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen.

The Peace

The Celebrant sings

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

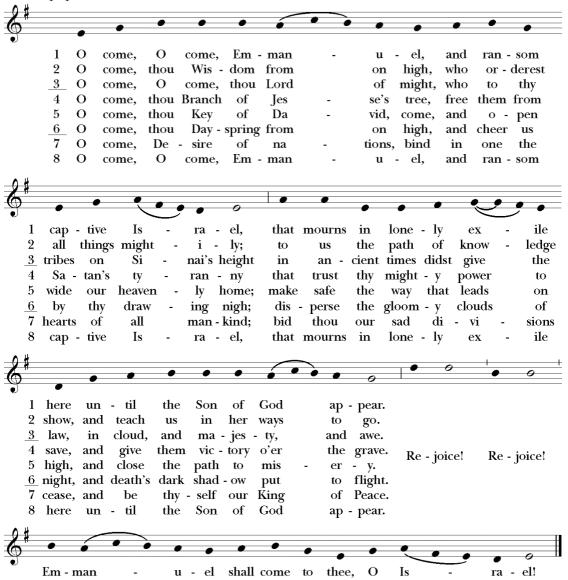
Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

All stand and sing the hymn while the ushers bring forward the People's gifts of bread and wine, and the Altar is prepared.



Words: Latin, e. ninth century; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, Plainsong, Mode 1

The Great Thanksgiving

All remain standing. The Celebrant faces the People and sings



Celebrant

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 you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Choir sings Sanctus and Benedictus. The setting is by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.

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.

The People stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Hosanna in excelsis.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be

the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

The Celebrant and the People sing



We re-mem-ber his death, We pro-claim his res-ur-rec-tion,



We a-wait his com-ing in glo-ry.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.



All

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

Then all sing the Lord's Prayer.



Setting: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then the Celebrant sings

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:



People There-fore let us keep the feast.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991)

The Choir sings Agnus Dei. The setting is by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Agnus Dei, Lamb of God,

qui tollis peccata mundi; you take away the sins of the world;

miserere nobis. have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, Lamb of God,

qui tollis peccata mundi; you take away the sins of the world;

miserere nobis. have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, Lamb of God,

qui tollis peccata mundi; you take away the sins of the world;

dona nobis pacem. grant us peace.

The Invitation

The Celebrant invites the People to receive the Holy Communion.

We are all invited to the Lord's Table

In the Episcopal Church all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Members of other Christian churches who are baptized are also invited to receive the Body of Christ.

If you wish to receive Communion, please proceed down the center aisle maintaining social-distancing.

The ushers will gladly answer any questions and will provide directions.

The Bread is carefully placed in the hand of each Communicant.
Consecrated Wine, poured into small individual glasses,
is available for those who wish to receive it.
Please return to your seat via the side aisles.

The Celebrant will be happy to offer a blessing to those who do not wish to receive Communion.

The Communion Song and Motet

As the ministration of Communion begins, the appointed antiphon is sung.

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

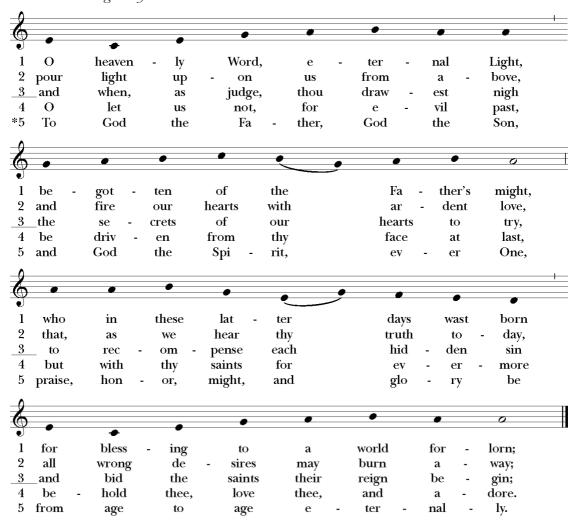
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

During the ministration of Communion, the Choir sings Magnificat (Collegium Regale). The setting is by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. 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.

Hymn: O heavenly Word, eternal Light

All stand and sing the hymn.



Words: Latin, c. seventh century; translation Hymnal 1982.

Music: Verbum supernum prodiens, plainsong, Mode 2, Nevers MS., thirteenth century

The Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

All we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food

of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty, ♥ the Father, the Son, and the

Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

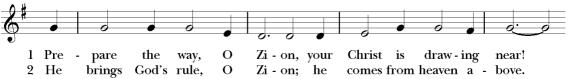
People Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

All are seated for the announcements.

Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near

All stand and sing the hymn.



3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



jus - tice, truth, and His rule is peace and free-dom, and love. His tid - ings of sal va - tion pro - claim in place. ev - ery



Greet One who comes inglo - ry, fore - told in cred Lift high your praise re - sound-ing, for grace and joy a bound - ing. All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will dore

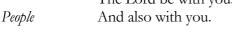


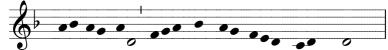
Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772–1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920–1999) Music: Bereden väg för Herran, melody from Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697

The Dismissal

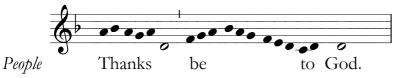
A Minister dismisses the assembly, first singing

The Lord be with you.





Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.



Setting: Missa orbis factor

The Postlude

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Neighbors in Need

Saint Mary's outreach program to those in need in the Times Square Neighborhood

At our monthly Drop-by Days—and when we receive emergency requests—we distribute clothing, toiletry and hygiene items, and Metro Cards when they are available, to those in need in the Times Square neighborhood.

Since the weather is beginning to grow colder, we are looking to receive donations of sweatshirts, thermal underwear, jackets, and coats in all sizes for both men and women. All these will be much needed for the next few months.

We also welcome donations of socks and underwear in all sizes for both men and women. Our Drop-by Days usually take place on the third Friday of every month. Volunteers work from 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM. Our guests are invited into the church at 2:00 PM, and we close our doors at 3:00 PM. We need six (6) volunteers for each Drop-by. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Marie Rosseels, MaryJane Boland, or Father Jay Smith. You may reach them by calling the Parish Office at 212-869-5830.

We've learned, not surprisingly, that those we serve, some of whom are unsheltered, some of whom are not, are quite individual, each with different needs. They have become our neighbors. We try to take Saint Benedict's advice and to see Christ in them. It is our hope that they sometimes see Christ in us.

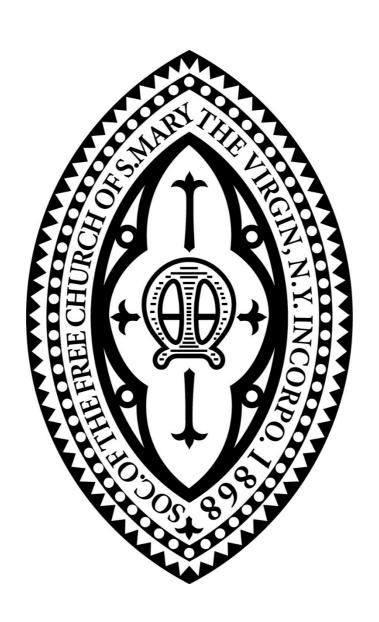
We Need Your Help

We are enormously grateful to all the members and friends of Saint Mary's from far and wide who have supported the parish during the extraordinary events of the past twenty months. Your gifts have encouraged us, and they have kept us going.

We hope that you will make a pledge to the parish for 2022 at this time. Pledge cards may be found on the ushers' table at the Forty-sixth Street entrance to the church. If you can make an additional donation to support the parish at this time, we would happily receive it. Donations may be made online via the Giving section of the parish website. You may also make arrangements for other forms of payment by contacting our parish administrator, Christopher Howatt, who would be happy to assist you. He may be reached at 212-869-5830 x 10.

If you have questions about pledging, please speak to a member of the clergy or to one of the members of the Stewardship Committee, MaryJane Boland, Steven Heffner, or Marie Rosseels.

We are grateful to you for your crucial support of Saint Mary's at this time.



THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

145 West Forty-sixth Street New York, New York 10036-8502 Web: www.stmvirgin.org Phone: 212.869.5830

The Parish Clergy

The Reverend Stephen Gerth, rector
The Reverend James Ross Smith, curate
The Reverend Canon Victor Conrado,
The Reverend Dr. Matthew Daniel Jacobson,
The Reverend Dr. Peter Ross Powell,
The Reverend Alison J. Turner, assisting priests

The Music Program

Dr. David Hurd, organist & music director Mr. Lawrence Trupiano, organ curator

The Parish Staff

Mr. Christopher Howatt, parish administrator Mr. Harka Gurung, Mr. Marcos Orengo Roman, Mr. Jorge Trujillo, sextons

The Board of Trustees

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Saint Mary's ministries are supported by the financial gifts of those who worship here.