

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

SOLEMN MASS

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 11:00 AM

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

A Vision for Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's is a vibrant Anglo-Catholic witness in the heart of New York City. With our identity in Christ and a preference for the poor, we are an inclusive, diverse community called to love God and each other for the life of the world.

About the Liturgy

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, a season in which the Christian Church waits and watches. Through scripture, song, and silence we hear the story of God's people who longed for a Savior. Living in the reality that Jesus Christ has come, that he has died, and that he has risen, we await his coming again in glory. On the Sundays of Advent *Kyrie eleison*, "Lord, have mercy," replaces *Gloria in excelsis* as the opening song of praise. The new liturgical year began on the first Sunday of Advent, when we began Year B in the Lectionary for Sundays (*The Book of Common Prayer*, 901). Please note that here at Saint Mary's, with the permission of our bishop, we use the Eucharistic Lectionary first prepared for use in the Book of Common Prayer 1979. On the First Sunda of Advent, we also began Year Two in the Daily Office Lectionary (*The Book of Common Prayer*, 937).

About the Music

The organ prelude today is the more extended of two organ settings for *Magnificat*, the Song of Mary, 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. It is conceivable that the sub-sections of this work were intended to be performed *in alternatim* with verses of *Magnificat* sung to chant. However, the several sections of the piece work together well when played continuously without the insertion of chant verses. As is often the case, distinguished historic music lends itself to a variety of reasonable interpretations. Performers, therefore, are challenged creatively to seek appropriate performance solutions and let the hearers delight.

The setting of the Mass this morning is *Missa Dixit Maria* by Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612). Born in Nuremberg and baptized on October 26, 1564, Hassler's musical career bridged the late Renaissance to the early Baroque periods. His initial musical instruction

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was from his father, Isaak Hassler (c. 1530–1591). Hans Leo left home in 1584 to study in Venice with Andrea Gabrieli (c. 1532–1585) and become a friend and fellow pupil with Gabrieli's nephew Giovanni (c. 1554–1612). Thus, Hassler was one of the first of a succession of German composers to experience in Italy the musical innovations that were shaping what would later be identified as baroque style. Hassler was recognized in his day not only as a composer, but also as an organist and a consultant on organ design. Although he was a Protestant, Hassler's early compositions were for the Roman church. His Missa Dixit Maria, published in 1599, is a parody Mass with themes borrowed from his own motet Dixit Maria ad Angelum. The text of the source motet—which will be sung during the administration of Communion—recounts Mary's words to the angel of the Annunciation, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me, according to your word."

The postlude today is by the celebrated African-American composer, Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) Hailstork is professor of composition at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. In his *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"* one can hear fragments of the fifteenth-century Advent hymn, *O come, O come Emmanuel*, based upon the *Great O Antiphons*, although the entire hymn melody is never stated fully. The unusual meter of five beats to the measure gives the *Toccata* a curious off-balanced rhythmic energy. The harmonic dissonances, particularly near the end of the piece, may well characterize a world in chaos awaiting the birth of the Prince of Peace.

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Neighbors in Need

Our next Drop-by Distribution Day is Friday, January 19, 2024, 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Neighbors in Need distributes clothing and hygiene items to those in need in the Times Square neighborhood.

We invite you to help with that work.

If you would like to donate lightly used clothing—especially coats, jackets, shoes, and sneakers—we would be happy to receive it.

If you would like to make a financial donation, please visit our webpage.

We thank you for your generosity.

SOLEMN MASS

The Prelude

Magnificat Primi Toni, BuxWV 203

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

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.

The Sprinkling of Holy Water

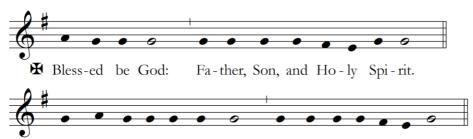
The assembly is sprinkled with holy water while Asperges me is sung.

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo, et mundabor: lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.
Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen

You will sprinkle me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be cleansed; you will wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, according to your great mercy. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

The Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant sings



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

Setting: Louis Weil (1935-2022)

The Song of Praise

The Choir sings Kyrie eleison. The setting of the Mass ordinary is Missa Dixit Maria by Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612).

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

Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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 WORD OF GOD

The Lessons

All are seated for the Lessons. The first Lesson, 2 Samuel 7:4, 8–16, is now read.

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men; but I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

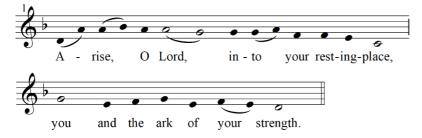
After the Lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

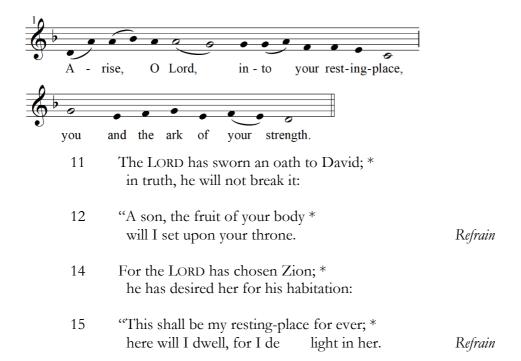
Psalm 132:8-12, 14-15

The Refrain is introduced by a Cantor and repeated by all. The psalm verses are sung to plainsong tone 1by the Choir, and the Congregation responds with the Refrain as indicated.



- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; * let your faithful people sing with joy.
- 10 For your servant David's sake, *
 do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

Refrain



The second Lesson, Romans 16:25–27, is now read.

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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.

The Holy Gospel

A Minister proclaims the Gospel, first singing

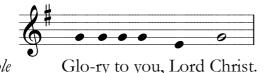
The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Minister

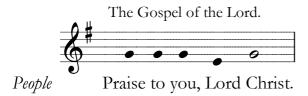
▼ The Holy Gospel

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



The appointed Gospel, Luke 1:26–38, is now proclaimed.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

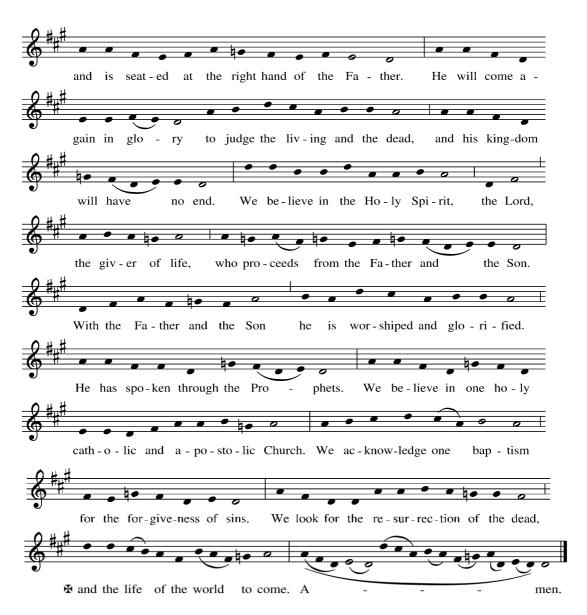


The Sermon The Reverend Dr. Peter Ross Powell

The Nicene Creed

All stand. The Creed is sung by all. It is customary for those who are able to bow at the words "...he came down from heaven...and was made man."

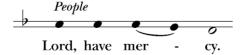




Setting: Plainsong, Mode 5; Credo 3; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947). \circledcirc 1985, Bruce E. Ford.

The Prayers of the People

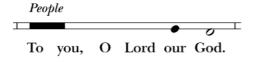
A Minister bids the prayers of the assembly. At the end of each petition, except for the last, the People sing



Then, the final petition is sung by the Minister,

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the glorious and ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Then the People respond to the final petition, singing



Setting: Mason Martens (1933-1991))

After a period of silence, the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Confession of Sin

The Minister says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

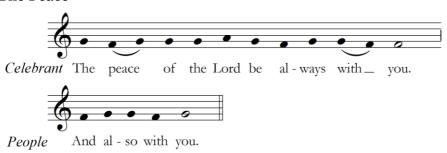
The People kneel. Silence is observed.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God,
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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, Φ 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. *Amen*.

The Peace



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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Preparation of the Gifts

All are seated as the appointed antiphon is sung. The ministers prepare for the Offertory procession, while an offering is taken. If you would like to make an offering online, you may do so by using this code:



Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

The Hymnal 1982 #56

All stand and sing the hymn as the People's gifts of bread, wine, and money are received and the Altar is prepared.

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 Hans Leo Hassler.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

₩ Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

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

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

Hosanna in the highest.

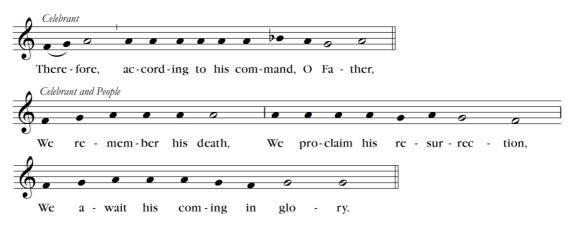
The People stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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."



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 forever.



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

Then all sing the Lord's Prayer.

All



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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and sings



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;



Setting: Ambrosian Chant adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991)

The Choir sings Agnus Dei. The setting is by Hans Leo Hassler.

There-fore let us keep the feast.

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

People

The Celebrant invites the People to receive the Holy Communion.

We are all invited to the Lord's Table

Those who wish to receive Communion should proceed to the Communion rail, guided by the ushers.

At the rail, you may either stand or kneel.

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 and Blood of Christ.

Persons who do not wish to receive the Holy Communion are also invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you would like someone to bring you Communion at your seat, please notify an usher. We would be happy to accommodate you.

The Communion Song & Motet

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

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium: 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 the motet, Dixit Maria ad angelum. The setting is by Hans Leo Hassler.

Dixit Maria ad angelum: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Mary said to the angel, behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word.

Text: Luke 1:38

Hymn: Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

All stand and sing the hymn.

The Hymnal 1982 #268

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.

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

People Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

All are seated for the announcements.

Hymn: Come thou long-expected Jesus

The Hymnal 1982 #66

The Congregation stands and sings the hymn.

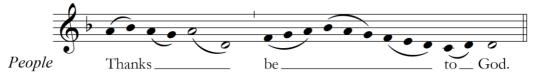
The Dismissal

A Minister dismisses the assembly, first singing

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.





Setting: Missa orbis factor

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The Postlude

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

*

You are invited to join us after Coffee Hour this morning to help with the greening of the church for Christmas.

This year, time is short. We need your help.
All are welcome! The more the merrier!
Pizza will be provided!

We invite you to join us

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 past three and a half years. Your gifts have encouraged us, and they have kept us going.

We hope that you will consider making a pledge to the parish for 2024 this fall. 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 arrange to pay in other ways 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 one of the members of the Stewardship Committee, Father Sammy Wood, MaryJane Boland, Steven Heffner, Marie Rosseels, or Father Peter Powell.

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 Sammy Wood, priest-in-charge
The Reverend James Ross Smith, associate rector
The Reverend Dr. Matthew Daniel Jacobson, assistant to the rector
The Reverend Canon Victor Conrado,
The Reverend Dr. Peter Ross Powell, 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. Shalim Peña, Mr. Marcos Orengo Roman, Mr. Jorge Trujillo, sextons

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