

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

*The Celebrant and People say together*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

*Celebrant* God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.  
*People* Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

*The Celebrant continues*

The gifts of God for the People of God. (Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.)

*All people are invited forward to share in our communion—if you receive the bread and/or wine, please kneel or stand at the altar rail. If you are not yet baptized, please kneel or stand at the altar rail with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing from one of the clergy. You are also invited to receive prayers and anointing with holy oil in one of our transept chapels (Ascension to the south, and Holy Communion to the north) where anointers wait to pray with you.*

Music at Communion

**Celebration Hymnal 251** “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
**Celebration Hymnal 249** “O Come All Ye Faithful”

The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

*Following communion, Eucharistic Visitors to our homebound members may be sent forth with the following prayer.*

*Celebrant* **In the name of St. John’s Cathedral, I send you forth bearing** these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in **the communion of Christ’s Body and Blood.**  
*People* We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May Almighty God watch over you who wait for Christ to come again, you who long to see His face. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

In Procession, Celebration Hymnal 258 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Dismissal

*People* Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

† † †

*The flowers in Cummings Chapel and at the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gary F. Keys, Sr., by Beverly Keys.*

*The flowers in Holy Communion Chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Amelia Shields DeMuth, Amelia K. Ferber, Bayard Shields Ferber, Carl Robertson Kurtz, Jr., Bayard Benoit Shields, Paul L. Ferber, and other members of the Shields and Ferber families, by Paul S. Ferber.*

† † †

THE HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 20, 2015 - 9 a.m.

*A joyous and warm welcome to our visitors and guests. Please know how happy our Cathedral community is to have you worship with us. We’d love to know our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as it comes by.*

*On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.*

Welcome

The Bidding Prayer

*The Celebrant says*

Dear People of God: In this Advent Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of **God’s loving purpose and the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus**, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country and in this city. And because God particularly loves them, let us remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

*Scene 1 - An angel visits Joseph in a dream*

The First Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

Celebration Hymnal 243 “Emmanuel” *(sung twice)*

*Scene 2 - The Annunciation*

The Second Reading

Luke 1:26-31, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

### Scene 3 - The Visitation

#### The Third Reading

Luke 1:39-47

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

*Pam Searcy, flute solo*

### Scene 4 - The Registration

#### The Fourth Reading

Luke 2:1-5

A decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Celebration Hymnal 250 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*Stanzas 1-2*

### Scene 5 - The shepherds are visited by angels

#### The Fifth Reading

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Celebration Hymnal 278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
*Stanzas 1-3*

### Scene 6 - Jesus in a manger

#### The Sixth Reading

Luke 2:6-7, 16

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Celebration Hymnal 281 “What Child Is This?”  
*Stanza 1*

### Scene 7 - The Wise Men

#### The Seventh Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has

been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Celebration Hymnal 288 “We Three Kings”  
*Stanza 1*

*A period of silence for reflection follows the hymn.*

*The Dean concludes the pageant with the reading of John 3:16-17. The children then sing “Happy Birthday, Jesus” at the manger.*

*The children are invited to remain at the altar during The Great Thanksgiving.*

#### The Peace

*The People stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*The Clergy and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

#### Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Offertory

Ordinary Baby  
*Cheryl Bowen, soprano*

*As the Altar is prepared for Communion, representatives of the congregation collect the offerings of the People. The people stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar.*

Celebration Hymnal 244 “Come thou long expected Jesus”

#### The Great Thanksgiving

*The Celebrant and people say*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

### Celebrant and people sing

#### The Sanctus



*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues.*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *Amen.*