

saint benedict's table

an on-line celebration of the Eucharist for Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

Land Acknowledgment

The sounding bowl is rung to draw us into stillness, and the candle is lit. If you have a candle at home with you, please take a moment to light it now.

We stood watch just like any other night
Counting sheep, trying to stay upright
Shuffling our feet, we heard the beat
Of an angel's wings, an angel's wing
And above we saw the strangest thing
The light all around began to sing...
Glory...

We left the fields, moved by the angel's song
Even the sheep seemed to sing along
We ran like drunken poets looking for their muse
To the beat of angels' wings
And below we saw the strangest sign,
And all at once, our hearts knew what to cry...
(Alana Levandoski)

Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living and eternal Word
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Hark the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new born king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled”
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new born king,”

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 one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new born king,”

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
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King.”

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.

As we have known
the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Word

Readings - Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon – Rachel Twigg

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

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exaltation
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above
Glory to God, glory in the highest
O come let us adore Him...
Christ the Lord

Intercessory Prayers – Andrew Krahn

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: “You shall call His name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.”
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Silence for confession is held

As we speak the truth of our lives to God—God who is merciful and just—we are reconciled and drawn home again and again and again.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
+pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

The Table

*The presider will both set and clean up the table to ensure they are the only person to handle these items. The priest will also be the only person to stand at the table during the celebration of communion. Musicians will be visible but socially distanced to ensure the priest does not appear to be alone. The presiding priest will have followed existing diocesan protocols (mask, hand hygiene, tongs etc.) to prepare a small tray with wafers in individual cups. This tray will be covered with 3 purificators (for the Trinity and/or to reflect the general recommendation that a mask should have three layers of fabric.). The tray will be placed on the altar with the homemade priest's host and blessed at the same time. After the service, we will follow diocesan protocols to allow those present to receive **in one kind only**.*

While we sing, please set before you the bread you will use for communion.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer...

... now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ...

... All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son,
with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
now and for ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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.**

This is the body of Christ:
behold what you are,
become what you receive.
Amen.

This is the table, not merely of the church, but of Christ.
It is made ready for those who love him,
and for those who want to love him more.
So come, whether you have much faith or little;
have tried to follow, or are afraid you've failed.
Come, because it is His will that those who
want to meet him might meet him here.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The body of Christ, broken for us all.
Amen.

Take a moment to eat the bread you have set out in your home.

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;

O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!

The priest will then raise the cup, and say,

The blood of Christ, shed for us all.

Amen.

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

After communion, into the rest of life

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God

**we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

May we, who share his body,

live his risen life;

we, who drink his cup,

bring life to others;

we, whom the Spirit lights,

give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so that we and all your children shall be free,

and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Alleluia! Our God is with us!

In the name of Christ Jesus,

we cry out with the angels in the heavens
and the shepherds in the fields:
Alleluia! Our God is with us!
And the blessing of God almighty,
+the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

+Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly host sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

May God who has met us in this evening darkness
and called us into Christ's marvelous light
bless us and fill us with peace.

Thanks be to God.

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Immediately following tonight's liturgy you'll have the opportunity to join us to raise a glass and chat informally with others via Zoom. If you'd like to join us but don't yet have the link, send an email right away to jamie@stbenedictstable.ca