



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

THE HOLY INNOCENTS
DECEMBER 28, 2025
11:00AM

SUNG EUCHARIST

Please maintain a reverent silence before the service

The Mass setting is the *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

VOLUNTARY: Cradle Song

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The People kneel at the sound of the bell and a Priest sings

As the procession enters the Nave, the People stand and sing

Hymn 26 "Sing, O sing this blessed morn"

ENGLAND'S LANE

The People standing, the Priest says

People The Lord be with you.
Priest And with thy spirit.
 Let us pray.

The People kneel, and the Priest continues with

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 67

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

BCP, p. 69

KYRIE ELEISON (sung by All)

The Hymnal 1940, 710

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

THE COLLECTS OF THE DAY

BCP, p. 102, 104

The People remain kneeling and the Priest sings

People The Lord be with you.
Priest And with thy spirit.
 Let us pray.

The Priest continues with the Collects, to each the People respond

Amen.

The People sit

THE LESSONS

The Epistle: Revelation 14:1–5

BCP, p. 102

All stand and join in singing

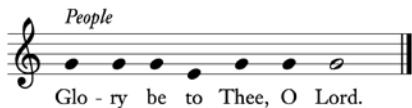
Hymn 34 “Unto us a boy is born”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The Gospel: Matthew 2:13–18

BCP, p. 103

Priest The **¶** Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, in the second chapter, beginning at the thirteenth verse.



At the conclusion of the Gospel, All sing



THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 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.

The People sit

THE NOTICES

THE ADDRESS

THE OFFERTORY

The People stand and the Priest begins the Offertory with a sentence of scripture. After which, the People sit.

THE PRESENTATION

The People stand as the alms and oblations are presented and sing

Hymn 139 “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Priest then says

People All things come of thee, O Lord,
 and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

THE BIDDINGS

Priest Of your charity, I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:
 Rest  eternal grant unto them, O Lord;
People and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Priest May they rest in peace.
People Amen.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH

BCP, p. 74

The Priest begins by saying

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church.

The People kneel and the Priest continues with the prayers

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 75

A Priest bids the Confession, the People kneel, and the following Confession is said by all

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.

The Priest alone stands and pronounces the Absolution which is followed by

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

BCP, p. 76

The Priest then sings

	The Lord be with you
People	And with thy spirit.
Priest	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them up unto the Lord.
Priest	Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
People	It is meet and right so to do.

The Priest faces the Altar and continues with the proper preface, after which is sung

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS (*sung by All*)

Hymnal, 711 & 797

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory;
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION, OBLATION, & INVOCATION

BCP, p. 80

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*said by All*)

BCP, p. 82

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 Priest kneels and the People join in saying

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP, p. 82

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.

Then is sung

AGNUS DEI (*sung by All*)

Hymnal, 712

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Those who are baptized, have attained to years of discretion, and have been admitted to communion (which at St. John's, is normally by confirmation, but for visitors may have taken place by other means) are welcome to receive the Sacrament. All others are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar rail by kneeling and crossing your arms over your chest.

To receive the Host, please place your right hand over left, at the level of your chest, and lift the Host to your lips. To receive the chalice, keep your head and neck straight, lightly grasp the bowl or stem of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

Self-intinction (dipping) of the Host is not permitted for hygiene reasons. If you do not wish to receive the chalice, you may depart after receiving the Host, or cross your arms over your chest.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 44 "In the bleak midwinter" (*sung by All*)

CRANHAM

After Communion, the Priest says

Let us pray.

The People kneel and join in saying

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 83

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.

The People stand and then is sung

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*sung by All*)

Hymnal, 713

The People kneel and Priest (or Bishop, if present) pronounces a blessing to which they respond

Amen.

The People stand for

THE LAST GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

Priest The beginning of the  Holy Gospel according to St. John.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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, *[All genuflect for a space]* (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.

The People join in singing

Hymn 20 “Of the Father’s love begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

The People kneel and the Priest says

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

People Amen.

VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Unto us is born a Son*

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The People are invited to be seated for the voluntary or depart quietly.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Our mission is to build a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith, reverent worship, and is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

325 Bull Street on Madison Square
Telephone: 912.232.1251 • Website: www.stjohnssav.org

Nursery care is available from 10:45AM - 12:15PM in Cranmer Hall.
Please speak to an usher for assistance with the location of the nursery.

For information on worship and other events of the Parish, see the separate Parish Paper located at the back of the Nave.

WAYS TO GIVE

To support the ministry of St. John's Church, please consider one of the following options below:

- You may place your offering in the plates as the ushers pass through the Nave.
- You can text 1928BCP to 73256 to receive a link where you can donate online.
- You can visit our website www.stjohnssav.org and click "give."
- You can mail your check to:

St. John's Church
1 West Macon Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

HOW WE WORSHIP – THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The secular calendar is in a hurry to reach Christmas – moving into celebratory gear even before Thanksgiving – but almost as soon as Christmas actually arrives, the ornaments come down as speedily as they went up. It's a classic greed-gulp-gratification pattern, culminating in binge followed by remorse. The Church's year teaches us to wait, to prepare, to let expectation build, and then once Christmas begins on December 25th, to continue its celebration for twelve days as the faithful savor the tidings of comfort and joy brought to us by the angel and the shepherds. Three holy days follow Christmas – St. Stephen, St. John, and Holy Innocents – and then on the "octave" (eighth day) of the feast is commemorated the circumcision of Jesus (which happened on the eighth day after his birth) – the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, which Jesus fulfills by the perfection of his loving obedience unto God; the first shedding of his blood, by which our own failures to keep the covenant are atoned for; and his being named Jesus, as the word of God ordained, which means "Savior" (or, "the Lord saves"), which indicates the work he accomplishes by his blood. It's not a coincidence the Octave of Christmas and the Feast of the Lord's Circumcision is also New Year's Day: in the beginning of the earthly life of him who is without beginning, is the right place for us to begin all our years, all our days, all our life. The twelve days of Christmas conclude (after "Twelfth Night") with the feast of the Lord's Epiphany on January 6th, when we celebrate the manifestation ('epiphany') to the world of God's glory in the humanity of the Virgin's son.

Clergy

The Right Reverend Frank Logue, *Bishop*

The Reverend Gavin Dunbar, *Rector*

The Reverend Jonathan Jameson, *Associate Rector*

Honorary Assisting Clergy

The Right Reverend Paul Lambert, *Bishop (retired)* DEPO

The Reverend J. Patrick Hunt, *Assisting Priest*

The Reverend David Thurlow, *Assisting Priest*

Vestry

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)

Mr. Charles J. Ezelle

Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley)

Mr. Stephen D. Ezelle

Mr. Douglas P. McManamy

Mr. R. Scott Howard

Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary)

Mr. Richard Wright (Rick)

Mrs. Patrick Worsham (Jane)

Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry)

Vestry Emeriti

Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.,
M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq. (Ty), *Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus*

Officers of the Vestry

Mr. Graham P. Sadler, *Senior Warden*

Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry), *Junior Warden*

Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr., *Treasurer*

Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan), *Assistant Treasurer*

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert, *Clerk of Vestry*

Dolly Chisholm, *Chancellor*

Women of St. John's

Melanie Finnegan, *President*

Chancel Society

Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H. Pounds, *Co-Presidents*

Men of St. John's

Mr. Benjamin Baxter, *President*