



St Mark's  
Episcopal Church  
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

# Christmas Day at St. Mark's

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ



December 25, 2024 • 10AM

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10AM

## A Blessed Christmas To You

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's.**

It is our hope and prayer that while you are here, you will be touched by the Spirit of the living Christ and fed by the grace of God.

We worship according to the rites of the Episcopal Church in the *Book of Common Prayer*. We experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and we encourage all baptized persons who are seeking a deeper communion with our Lord and with one another to share in the mystical food of the Eucharistic feast. If you are not yet baptized or if for some other reason it is not appropriate for you to partake of Communion, please come forward for a blessing. You may signal your intention to the priest by crossing your arms.

The sacrament is distributed under the forms of both bread and wine. To receive the wine, you may drink from the common cup. We encourage baptized children to partake of Holy Communion because the sacrament is formative to all, regardless of one's ability to understand it.

We invite you to make St. Mark's your holy home, and hope you will join us as we seek a deeper life in Christ, a more holy communion with one another, and a greater love for the world. By the grace of God, we are engaged in a mutual ministry in which members give of their time, talent, and treasure for the love of Christ through our church.

### **Please help us to help you.**

Speak with a member of our clergy: Father Peter, Reverend Elizabeth, or Father John. You may also visit our website at: [www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org), or call the Church Office during the week at 203.966.4515.

May God bless you.



The Reverend Peter F. Walsh  
Rector

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

111 Oenoke Ridge

New Canaan, CT 06840

203.966.4515 • [www.stmarksnewcanaan.org](http://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org)

# Christmas Day

10AM The Holy Eucharist • December 25, 2024  
Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Peter F. Walsh

## The Word of God

### Prelude Music

**Organ and Oboes** from *Noëls en trio, Symphonie and Ou s'en vont ces gays Bergers* Michel Richard de Lalande  
(1657-1726)

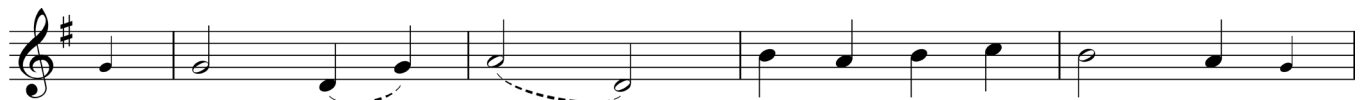
**Organ and Solo** *Hodie Christus natus est* Plainsong, *Tonus primus*, Dorian mode  
*Ryland Angel, tenor; sung in Latin*

Hodie Christus natus est, hodie Salvator apparuit: hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli:  
hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluja.

*Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

### Entrance Hymn

“O come, all ye faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;



come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
glo - ry to God, in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

#### Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others.  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);  
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest;

*People* **And peace to His people on earth.**

## The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Song of Praise

“Angels we have heard on high”



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.  
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*People* The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by

the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*People* The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand, as they are able, and sing.*

## The Gradual Hymn

“What child is this?”

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,  
Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
pea - sant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -  
an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard, and an - gels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

## The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be

delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring

you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,

*People*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **The Sermon**

The Reverend Peter F. Walsh

*The People stand, as they are able.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

*BCP 358*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*Celebrant* Friends in Christ,  
rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus,  
let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our hearts this Christmas Day:

*Leader* For the Church throughout the world,  
especially those in positions of leadership,  
that they might always give glory to God and work to bring peace to our earth,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the Church gathered in this place and streaming from afar,  
that we might always bear the good news of God's living presence in our world,  
deepen our Christmas faith, and live that faith in love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear,  
for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war;  
and for all our brothers and sisters in need, that the light and life that is the Lord  
might touch their hearts this day.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the homeless, and for children born into poverty and pain,  
that there would be room in the inn for all God's people.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the sick and the dying, especially those we remember in the quietness of our hearts,  
and for those who care for them, that the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger  
to the hard wood of the cross might bless them this day with the gift of peace.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Ever-loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your Son.  
Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you.  
Hear and answer our prayers, through that same Christ, newly born this day,  
our Lord and Savior for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## Welcome and Announcements



**New to St. Mark's or Visiting  
and interested in learning more?**  
Please scan the QR code and  
help us connect with you.



**If you would like to give to  
St. Mark's** please scan the QR  
code. We thank you for your  
generosity.

# The Holy Communion

## At the Offertory

*From Virgin's womb this day ("A Carol for Christmas Day")* William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)  
Arr. EJT 2024

From Virgin's womb this day, this day did spring the precious seed that only saved man,  
this day let man rejoice and sweetly sing, since on this day our Saviour first began.  
This day, this day did Christ man's soul from death remove,  
with glorious Saints to dwell in heaven above.

O sing unto this glitt'ring glorious King, O praise his Name, let every living thing,  
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring the comfort that this day to man doth bring,  
let Lute, let Shalm with sound of sweet delight, with sound of sweet delight,  
these joys of Christ his birth this day recite.

Rejoice, rejoice, with heart and voice, and voice, in Christ his birth this day, rejoice, rejoice.

*[Words, Francis Kindelmarsh, fl. 16th century]*

## The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

*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.**

*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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit,  
was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the  
bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven,  
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus and Benedictus

*A Community Mass, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and  
earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na in the high- est. Ho - san-na in the  
high- est. blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



*The people stand or kneel, as able.*

*Celebrant* 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,

*All* **We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.**

*Celebrant* 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 St. Mark 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.

### **The Great Amen**

setting by McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)



### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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 Breaking of the Bread

### The Fraction Anthems

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* 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.

### The Ministration of Communion

**During the Communion**     *As on the night before this blessed morn*     Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)  
Arr EJT 2024

As on the night before this blessed morn, a troop of angels unto shepherds told,  
where in a stable he was poorly born, whom nor the earth, nor heav'n of heav'ns can hold.  
Through Bethlem rung this news at their return; yea, angels sung that "God with us" was born:  
and they made mirth because we should not mourn.

This favour Christ vouchsafed for our sake: to buy us thrones he in a manger lay;  
our weakness took, that we his strength might take, and was disrob'd that he might us array:  
our flesh he wore, our sin to wear away: our curse he bore, that we escape it may;  
and wept for us, that we might sing for aye.

*[Words, George Wither, 1588-1667]*

*The People kneel, as they are able.*

### Post-Communion Prayer *(said together)*

**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.**

*On occasions when the Eucharist is to be sent out*

### The Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor

*People* **We 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.  
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

### The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.  
**Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The People stand, as they are able, and sing.

## Closing Hymn

“Joy to the world!”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns, let us our tongues em - ploy,  
3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove  
let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,  
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Allegro* (from *Sonata III*, HWV 380)

G. F. Handel

**We thank Marta Boratgis and Olav van Hezewijk, oboes; and Ryland Angel, tenor, for their beautiful contributions to this morning's service.**

**Ned's Notes** - Our **Prelude Music**: Michel Richard de Lalande was a French composer and organist of the Baroque era, in the favored service of Louis XIV. His *Noëls en trio* are settings of popular French Noëls (Christmas “carols,” obviously, as we call them) that would have been familiar to the French faithful for centuries. While the melodies are not familiar to us (in the 21st century United States), we can still appreciate the beauty, charm, and gracefulness of these settings. *Hodie Christus natus est* is the Antiphon to a Magnificat sung at Christmas Day Vespers. This particular Gregorian chant was made known to a larger audience by Benjamin Britten in his popular *Ceremony of Carols*. Our **Offertory Solo** is a transcription of Byrd's lovely *From Virgin's womb on this day*, for voice and string “consort” (in this case, probably a quartet of viols), and during the **Communion** we'll hear another transcription, this of music of Gibbons: the principal melody is familiar to us as Hymn 328, ‘*Draw night and take the Body of the Lord.*’ As on the night before this blessed morn is the original text Gibbons had in mind for this melody. As for our **Postlude**, we'll hear the jolly final movement from the third of Handel's *Trio Sonatas*, delightful works not heard often enough. “HWV” refers to the catalogue number according to the “**H**ändel-**W**erke-**V**erzeichnis” (Catalogue of Handel's Works).

## Worship Leaders

### 5PM Christmas Eve

#### Ushers

Lynn Donahue, Zackary Crawford,  
Jack Donahue, Alex Duffee,  
Jill Ernst, Paton Larkin,  
Ellen McMahon, Kevin McMahon,  
Bill Post, Paul Reiss, Eric Thunem,  
Ned Thunem, Pete Thunem

#### Acolytes

Michael Cantu Wilson Rothschild,  
Teddy Volanakis

### 10PM Christmas Eve

#### Lectors

Julie Brand  
John Harrison

#### Ushers

Lynn Donahue, John Harrison  
Suzanne Harrison, Paul Reiss

#### Acolytes

Heidi Neubohn,  
Charlie Daniels

### 10AM Christmas Day

#### Lector

Erik Luchs

#### Ushers

Tom Pettibone, Paul Reiss

## The Adorning of the Church

*St. Mark's Altar Guild*

## The Greening of the Church

*St. Mark's Flower Guild*

## Soloists of the St. Mark's Choir

Mary Petro Noonan, *soprano*; Lydia Cseh Dahling, *mezzo-soprano*;  
Trevor Scott and Ryland Angel, *tenors*; Kyle Gonyea, *baritone*

## The St. Mark's Fanfare Ensemble

Dylan Schwab and Alex Rensink (*trumpets*), Frank Drugge (*French horn*),  
Jason Miller and Matthew Wozniak (*trombones*), Peter Hohmeister (*percussion*)

## St. Mark's Clergy and Staff

**The Reverend Peter F. Walsh**, Rector

**The Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey**, Senior Associate Rector

**The Reverend John Kennedy**, Associate Rector

**Jill Sautkulis**, Director of Operations

**Beth Ralston**, Director of Special Projects

**Nancy Walton**, Director of Stewardship and Development

**Ed Hill**, Sexton

**Edgar Gonzalez**, Property Manager

**Ned Tipton**, Director of Music Ministry

**Rob Schwartz**, Digital Missioner

**Jan Maynes**, Director of Children's Ministry

**Prisca Spitz**, Preschool Director

## Worship & Prayer

### Sunday

8AM Indoor Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9AM Outdoor Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10AM Indoor Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Live Stream

### Monday—Friday

Morning Prayer, Rite II

8:30AM via Zoom

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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