Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

Please silence all electronic devices. This service is also livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

**THE ENTRANCE RITE**

**Organ**
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660
Savior of the nations, come
J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

**Vespers**
plainchant, adapt. from Giovanni da Palestrina
(c. 1525-1594)

V I look from afar; R And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
V Go ye out to meet him and say: R Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
V High and low, rich and poor, one with another.
R Go ye out to meet him and say: R Tell us, art thou he that should come?
V Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. R Tell us, art thou he that should come?
V Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come. R To reign over thy people Israel.
V Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. R I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming and a cloud covering the whole earth.
V Go ye out to meet him and say: R Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Please stand as you are able. From the Great West End Choir songs.

**The Responsory**
Isaiah 35:1-10
plainchant tone VII.1

**The Collect of the Day**
The Lord be with you. People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

S Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

The Lesson
Isaiah 35:1-10

The Choir song
Lauda, anima mea
plainchant

The Epistle
James 5:7-10

Please stand as you are able and sing
Sequence Hymn 126

The Gospel is announced, and the people respond
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel
Saint Matthew 11:2-11

After the Gospel the people respond
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon
The Rev’d Anthony C. Estes

Please stand as you are able and say together

The Nicene Creed

Prayerbook, Page 358

**The Prayers of the People**

Please kneel as you are able.
The Confession of Sin and Absolution
Please stand as you are able.
The Peace.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

The Congregation is seated.
The Blessing of the Scopes

At the Offertory, Anthem
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The service continues below, or may be followed in the Prayerbook on page 361.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

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.
The Celebriant continues with the Proper Preface.

All sing
Sanctus

**Hymn**

H
d

Ho·ly· ho·ly· ho·ly Lord, God of pow·er and might.

Hea·ven and earth are ful·ly of glo·ry. Ho·san·na in the high·est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

H
d

The People stand or kneel. The Celebriant continues and ends with

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

**Organ**

Fanfare on Vox clara intonat

Hark, a thrilling voice is calling

**Nine Lessons and Carols**

Saturday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.

The beloved service of Nine Lessons and Carols has its roots in late nineteenth century England and is traditionally offered as a gift to the community. It is certainly best known through the annual broadcast from King’s College on Christmas Eve, heard annually by well over a billion people worldwide.

The service is simplicity itself: nine lessons (readings) from scripture that tell the story of humankind’s fall from grace to its redemption made possible by the birth of Jesus Christ. Interspersed among the readings are carols, hymns, anthems, and motets sung by the choir and the congregation that reflect, respond to, and comment on the readings. Lessons are read by choristers, parishioners, clergy, and representatives of the Cathedral’s larger Detroit community. The service always begins with *Once in Royal David’s City*, the first verse sung by a single chorister.

The service of Lessons and Carols has spread far from its English roots to everywhere in the Anglican Communion. We in Detroit offer this service to the glory of God and as a gift to all who enter our doors and wish them, in the words from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “the peace of God, which passes all understanding,” in this approaching Christmas and always.

**A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

If you are in the Cathedral for worship today and you do not yet feel comfortable coming forward for Communion, or you are worshipping with us from home, we invite you to pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart, cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

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