

***Processional Hymn #160    As With Gladness Men of Old***

*As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with joyful song,  
raising voices pure and strong,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.*

*In the heavenly country bright,  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun, which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.*

***Gradual Hymn #158    Earth Has Many a Noble City***

*Earth has many a noble city;  
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:  
out of thee the Lord from heaven  
came to rule his Israel.*

*Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing  
seen in fleshly form on earth.*

*Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblation rich and rare;  
see them give, in deep devotion,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

*Sacred gifts of mystic meaning  
incense doth their God disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.*

*Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped  
at thy glad epiphany,  
unto thee, with God the Father  
and the Spirit, glory be.*

***Offertory Hymn #425   Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee***

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father and our Mother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.*

***Communion Hymn #48***  
***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for, with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to us approacheth,  
our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, Lord Most High!”*

***Recessional Hymn #159    Brightest and Best***

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid:  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.*

*Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation;  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*