

CHRISTMAS TIME



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THE VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

THE MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

THE DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS

**THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

or Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

or The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Either:

All **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (all strike their breast, saying:) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our
sins, and bring us to everlasting life. All **Amen.**

P. Lord, have mercy. [Kýrie, eléison.] All **Lord, have mercy.** [Kýrie, eléison.]

P. Christ, have mercy. [Christe, eléison.] All **Christ, have mercy.** [Christe, eléison.]

P. Lord, have mercy. [Kýrie, eléison.] All **Lord, have mercy.** [Kýrie, eléison.]

Or:

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord. All **For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy. All **And grant us your salvation.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our
sins, and bring us to everlasting life. All **Amen.**

P. Lord, have mercy. [Kýrie, eléison.] All **Lord, have mercy.** [Kýrie, eléison.]

P. Christ, have mercy. [Christe, eléison.] All **Christ, have mercy.** [Christe, eléison.]

P. Lord, have mercy. [Kýrie, eléison.] All **Lord, have mercy.** [Kýrie, eléison.]

Or:

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. [Or: Kýrie, eléison.]

All **Lord, have mercy.** [Or: Kýrie, eléison.]

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. [Or: Christe, eléison.]

All **Christ, have mercy.** [Or: Christe, eléison.]

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father
to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. [Or: Kýrie, eléison.]

All **Lord, have mercy.** [Or: Kýrie, eléison.]

P. May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our
sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All **Amen.**

GLORIA (*recite directly below or sing as directed*)

All **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT for the Vigil Mass of Christmas

P. O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption,
grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our
Redeemer,

we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT for the Midnight Mass of Christmas

P. O God, who have made this most sacred night
radiant with the splendour of the true light,

grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth,
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT for the Day Mass of Christmas

P. O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we
may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our
humanity.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

P. O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**.

COLLECT for The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

P. O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**.

COLLECT for Second Sunday after the Nativity

P. Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**.

COLLECT for The Epiphany of the Lord

P. O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**.

COLLECT for The Baptism of the Lord

P. Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS FOR	GO TO	READINGS FOR	GO TO
Christmas Vigil Mass	Page 17	Mary, Holy Mother of God	Page 27
Christmas Midnight Mass	Page 18	2 nd Sunday after Nativity	Page 28
Christmas Day Mass	Page 20	Epiphany of the Lord	Page 30
Holy Family, Year A	Page 22	Baptism of the Lord, Year A	Page 32
Holy Family, Year B	Page 23	Baptism of the Lord, Year B	Page 33
Holy Family, Year C	Page 25	Baptism of the Lord, Year C	Page 35

SYMBOL or PROFESSION OF FAITH (THE CREED)

Either: **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Or: **THE NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN (NICENE) CREED**

All I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER, that is, The Prayer of the Faithful or Bidding Prayers

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

P. Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands it will become our spiritual drink.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of
his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for the Vigil Mass of Christmas

P. As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities,
may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them
you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for the Midnight Mass of Christmas

P. May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ,
in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for the Day Mass of Christmas

P. Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,
when you manifested the reconciliation
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.
Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

P. We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

P. O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion.

Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for the Second Sunday after the Nativity

P. Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for The Epiphany of the Lord

P. Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS for The Baptism of the Lord

P. Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

A Preface (p.7-9); the Sanctus (p.9); then Eucharistic Prayer I (p.9), II (p.11) or III (p.12)

P. The Lord be with you.

All **And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right and just.**

PREFACE I OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD *Christ the Light*

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh

a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind,

so that, as we recognize in him God made visible,

we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible.

And so, with all the Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,

and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,

we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

PREFACE II OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Restoration of all things in the Incarnation

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of his awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

PREFACE III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The exchange in the Incarnation of the Word

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendour:

when our frailty is assumed by your word not only does human mortality receive unending honour but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

PREFACE I OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name on the Solemnity of the Motherhood of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

PREFACE OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD *Christ the light of the nations*

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ as a light for the nations, and, when he appeared in our mortal nature,

you made us new by the glory of his immortal nature.
And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

PREFACE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

P. It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan
you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism,
so that through the voice that came down from heaven
we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us,
and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove
we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of
gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.
And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

SANCTUS (*recite below or sing as directed*)

All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

P. To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless † these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants N. and N. and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

On the Nativity of the Lord and throughout the Octave (Proper form of the Communicates inserted)

Celebrating the most sacred night (day) on which blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Saviour for this world, and †

On the Epiphany of the Lord (Proper form of the Communicates inserted)

Celebrating the most sacred day on which your Only Begotten Son, eternal with you in your glory, appeared in a human body, truly sharing our flesh, and †

† In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, (James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian) and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family; order our days in your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IS IN MEMORY OF ME.

P. The mystery of faith.

All **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Or **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Or **Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

P. Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your

glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Remember also, Lord, your servants N. and N., who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

For The Communion Rite, see page 14

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

P. You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and ☩ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IS IN MEMORY OF ME.

P. The mystery of faith.

All **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Or **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Or **Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

P. Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy. Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

For The Communion Rite, see page 14

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

P. You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and ☩ Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate

these mysteries. For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:
TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:
TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT,
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All **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Or **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Or **Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

P. Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice. Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ. May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unflinching help. May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own. Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

For The Communion Rite, see page 14

THE COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND THE SIGN OF PEACE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All **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.

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

graciously grant peace in our days,

that, by the help of your mercy,

we may be always free from sin

and safe from all distress,

as we await the blessed hope

and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **For the kingdom, the power and the glory**

are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,

look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion & charity.

LAMB OF GOD (*recite below or sing as directed*) **AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,**

but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

If you are not in full communion with the Catholic Church and so unable to receive Holy Communion but would like to receive a blessing, please approach the minister with one arm across your chest.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for the Vigil Mass of Christmas

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for the Midnight Mass of Christmas

P. Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for the Day Mass of Christmas

P. Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine regeneration for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

P. Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

P. We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for the Second Sunday after the Nativity

P. Lord our God, we humbly ask you, that, through the working of this mystery, our offences may be cleansed and our just desires fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for The Epiphany of the Lord

P. Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed to participate. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION for The Baptism of the Lord

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING for Christmas

- P. May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day),
drive far from you the darkness of vice
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **All Amen.**
- P. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,
fill your minds with the gladness he gives
and make you heralds of his Gospel. **All Amen.**
- P. And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly
realm fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **All Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING for The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- P. May God, who through the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary
willed in his great kindness to redeem the human race,
be pleased to enrich you with his blessing. **All Amen.**
- P. May you know always and everywhere the protection of her,
through whom you have been found worthy
to receive the author of life. **All Amen.**
- P. May you, who have devoutly gathered on this day,
carry away with you the gifts of spiritual joys
and heavenly rewards. **All Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING for The Epiphany of the Lord

- P. May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,
pour out in his kindness his blessing upon you
and make your hearts firm in faith, hope and charity. **All Amen.**
- P. And since in confidence you follow Christ,
who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness,
may God make you, too,
a light for your brothers and sisters. **All Amen.**
- P. And so when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom
the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy,
the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord. **All Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- P. And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **All Amen.**
- P. Go forth, the Mass is ended. **All Thanks be to God.**
Or Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **All Thanks be to God.**
Or Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. **All Thanks be to God.**
Or Go in peace. **All Thanks be to God.**

Readings for the Vigil Mass of Christmas

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.88:4-5,27,29 R/. cf.v.2

R/. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' R/.

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day on your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. R/.

3. He will say to me:
'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' R/.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts.13:16-17,22-25

When Paul reached Antioch Pisidia, he up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose."
'To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal.'"

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt.1:18-25

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for the Midnight Mass of Christmas

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt, and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.95:1-3,11-13. R/. Lk.2:11

R/. Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord,
bless his name. R/.
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders
among all the people. R/.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder and praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. R/.
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. R/.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Titus.2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk.2:10-11

**All Alleluia, alleluia. I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk.2:1-14

Now at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for the Day Mass of Christmas

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.52.7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.97:1-6 R/.v.3

R/. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. R/. | 2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. R/. |
| 3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. R/. | 4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. R/. |

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb.1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

**'Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.' Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn.1:1-18,

Shorter from in italics vv. 1-5,9-14

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of all people,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all people;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him who was born

not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us, and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness.

He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received

- yes, grace in return for grace

- since, though the Law was given through Moses,

grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son,

who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Holy Family, Year A

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Eccl.3:2-6,2-14

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.127:1-5 R/. cf.v.1

R/. **O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. R/.

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house:

your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. R/.

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! R/.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians Col.3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints: he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another: forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col.3:15,16

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt.2:13-15,19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said. 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt. where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I called my son out of Egypt.*

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: *He will be called a Nazarene.*

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Holy Family, Year B

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen.15:1-6,21:1-3

It happened some time later that the word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield, your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'.

And then this word of Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised.

Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.104:1-6,8-9. R/.vv.7,8

R/. He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among his peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! R/.

2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. R/.

3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. R/

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb.11:8,11-12,17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf.Heb1:1-2

**Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk.2:22-40

Shorter form in italics Lk.2:22,39-30

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord- observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord- and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

*'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation*

which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'
As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected- and a sword will pierce your own soul too- so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Holy Family, Year C

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1Sam.1:20-22,24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said, 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.83:2-3,5-6,9-10 R/.v.5

R/. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. R/.

2. They are happy,
who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy,
whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. R/.

3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, a God, our shield,
look in the face of your anointed. R/.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

1Jn.3:1-2,21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him, we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts.16:14

**Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk.2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the
Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual.
When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in
Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan,
and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their
relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to
Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening
to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded
at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his
mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your
father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied.
'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not
understand what he meant.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for Mary, Mother of God- Year A, B & C

A reading from the book of Numbers

Num.6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons:

"This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel.

You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name of the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.66:2-3,5,6,8 R/.v.2

R/. O God, be gracious and bless us.

1. God be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. R/.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. R/.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. R/.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians Gal.4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk.2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for the Second Sunday after the Nativity

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Eccl.24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance". From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps.147:12-15,19-20 R/. Jn1:14

R/. **The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Sion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you.
2. He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph.1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf.1Tim.3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans;

Glory to you, O Christ, believed in by the world! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn.1:1-18,

Shorter from in italics vv. 1-5,9-14

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of all people,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all people;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him who was born

not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us, and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness.

He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received

- yes, grace in return for grace

- since, though the Law was given through Moses,

grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son,

who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for Epiphany of the Lord- Year A, B & C

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem,
for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look around:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephab;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.71:1-2,7-8,10-13

R/. All the nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in tight judgement. R/.
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from
the Great Sea to earth's bounds. R/.
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. R/.
4. For he shall save the people when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. R/.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph.3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt.2:2

**Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt.2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.'

Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Baptism of the Lord, Year A

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.42:1-4,6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you so serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
and those who die in darkness from dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.28:1-4,9-10

R/. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord, you Sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. R/.

2. The Lord's voice
resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of the waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. R/.

3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. R/.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts.10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise,' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all people. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mk.9:8

**Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt.3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should in this way, do all the righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptized he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from the heavens. 'This is my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on him.'

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Baptism of the Lord, Year B

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.55:1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
a leader and a master of the nations.
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,
those unknown will come hurrying to you,
for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.
Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens
and do not return without watering the earth,
making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower
and bread for the eating,
so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty,
without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa.12:2-6 R/.v.6

R/. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R/.

2. Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. R/.

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R/.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

1Jn.5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth - so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn.1:29

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:**This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

Mk.1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

For THE CREED, see p.5

Readings for The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa.40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them,' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psa.103:1-2.3-4,24-25,27-30

R/. Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. R/.</p> | <p>2. Above the rains
you build your dwelling.
You make the duds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. R/.</p> |
| <p>3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. R/.</p> | <p>4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand,
they have their fill. R/.</p> |
| <p>5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. R/.</p> | |

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Titus.2:11-14,3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that

does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk.3:16

Alleluia, alleluia. Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk.3:15-16,21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them, all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from the heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests with you.'

For THE CREED, see p.5



Forty Days of Light following the Nativity of the Lord conclude with the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, 2nd February.

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you promised in the sight of all the peoples.”
(Luke 2:30-31)