

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



24th December 2025

10:30pm

READINGS AND CAROLS

*All **stand** to sing*

GATHERING CAROL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. O come, thou wisdom from on high,
and order all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice...
3. 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...
4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:
Rejoice...
5. O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice...

6. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Rejoice...

7. O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease,
and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

Rejoice...

Words: from the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th century), tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)
Music: "Veni Emmanuel", plainchant, arr. Richard Proulx © 1975, GIA Publications. All rights reserved.

OPENING PRAYER

All Amen.

All sit.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7: 10-14

A name which means "God is with us".

The choir sings

1. A noble flow'r of Juda
from tender roots has sprung,
a rose from stem of Jesse,
as prophets long had sung;
a blossom fair and bright,
that in the midst of winter
will change to dawn our night.
2. The rose of grace and beauty
of which Isaiah sings
is Mary, virgin mother,
and Christ the flow'r she brings.
By God's divine decree
she bore our loving Saviour
who died to set us free.

3. To Mary, dearest mother,
with fervent hearts we pray:
grant that your tender infant
will cast our sins away,
and guide us with his love
that we shall ever serve him
and live with him above.

Words: German (15th century), tr. Anthony G. Petti (1932-85) © Faber Music Ltd, from The New Catholic Hymnal. All rights reserved.
Music: German Carol Melody (15th century), harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

THE SECOND READING

Pope St. Leo the Great, Sermo 1 in Nativitate Domini, 1-3: PI, 54, 190-193

Christan, remember your dignity.

*All **stand** to sing*

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
Music: "Cross of Jesus", by John Stainer (1840-1901)

All sit.

THE THIRD READING

“First Coming”, by Madeleine L’Engle

All stand to sing

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond’ring love.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-93)
Music: "Forest Green", by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

All sit.

THE FOURTH READING

Colossians 1: 12-20

He has created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves.

All stand.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

This announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation, and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events of sacred and secular history, to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,
when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness;
when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

THE PROCESSION

All sing the Processional Hymn.

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is god and lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our saviour holy.
3. And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
where like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-95)
Music: "Irby", by Henry Gauntlett (1805-76)

The Priest says

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

All Amen.

The Priest greets the people.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the Advent Candle is lit, all sing

All Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace.

*Cantor, then
repeated by all:*



Lord, have mer - cy.

You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary.

*Cantor, then
repeated by all:*



Christ, have mer - cy.

You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father.

*Cantor, then
repeated by all:*



Lord, have mer - cy.

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

All Amen.

GLORIA

At the start, and after each verse sung by the choir, all sing



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est,



and on earth peace, and on earth peace, peace to peo - ple of good will.

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The Priest says the Collect, and the people respond

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 1-7

A son is given to us.

At the end of the reading, the reader acclaims

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

The people sing the refrain after the cantor and after each verse:



To - day a Sa-viour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.

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THE SECOND READING

Titus 2: 11-14

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race.

At the end of the reading, the reader acclaims

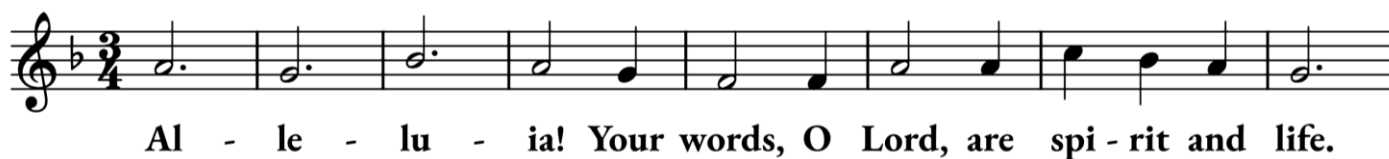
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand.

First time: Cantor, thereafter: All



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THE GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1-14

'In the town of David a saviour has been born to you.'

The Lord be with you.

All And with your spirit.

✠ A reading from the ✠ holy Gospel according to ✠ Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read. At the end of the Gospel, the reader acclaims

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit.

THE HOMILY

The Priest preaches the Homily.

At the end of the Homily, there is a brief period of silence for reflection.

*All then **stand** and say*

THE 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,

(At the following words, up to and including “and became man”, all kneel)

**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.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*The prayers of the faithful are offered, the people **remain standing**. After each intention, there is a brief pause while the people pray, after which is said these or similar words.*

Lord, in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

At the end of the petitions, all say the Hail Mary.

All Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

The Priest offers a concluding prayer, and all respond

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

The gifts are brought to the altar.

A collection is taken. Contributions at Christmas are a personal gift to Fr Mark and Fr Pedro to show our appreciation for them.

All sing the Offertory Hymn.

1. Angels we have heard in heaven
sweetly singing o'er our plains,
and the mountain tops in answer
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this exultation?
Why your rapturous strain prolong?
Tell us of the gladsome tidings,
which inspire your joyous song.
Gloria...

3. Come to Bethlehem, and see him
o'er whose birth the angels sing,
come, adore, devoutly kneeling,
Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Gloria...

4. See him in a manger lying
whom the choir of angels praise!
Mary, Joseph, come to aid us
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria...

Words: James Chadwick (1813-82)
Music: "Les Anges Dans Nos Campagnes", traditional French Noel

The priest says, either aloud or in a low voice

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness
we have received this 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.

All stand as the Priest says

Pray, 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.

The Priest says the Prayer over the Offerings, and the people respond

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Priest, extending his hands, says or sings

The Lord be with you.

All And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up to the Lord.

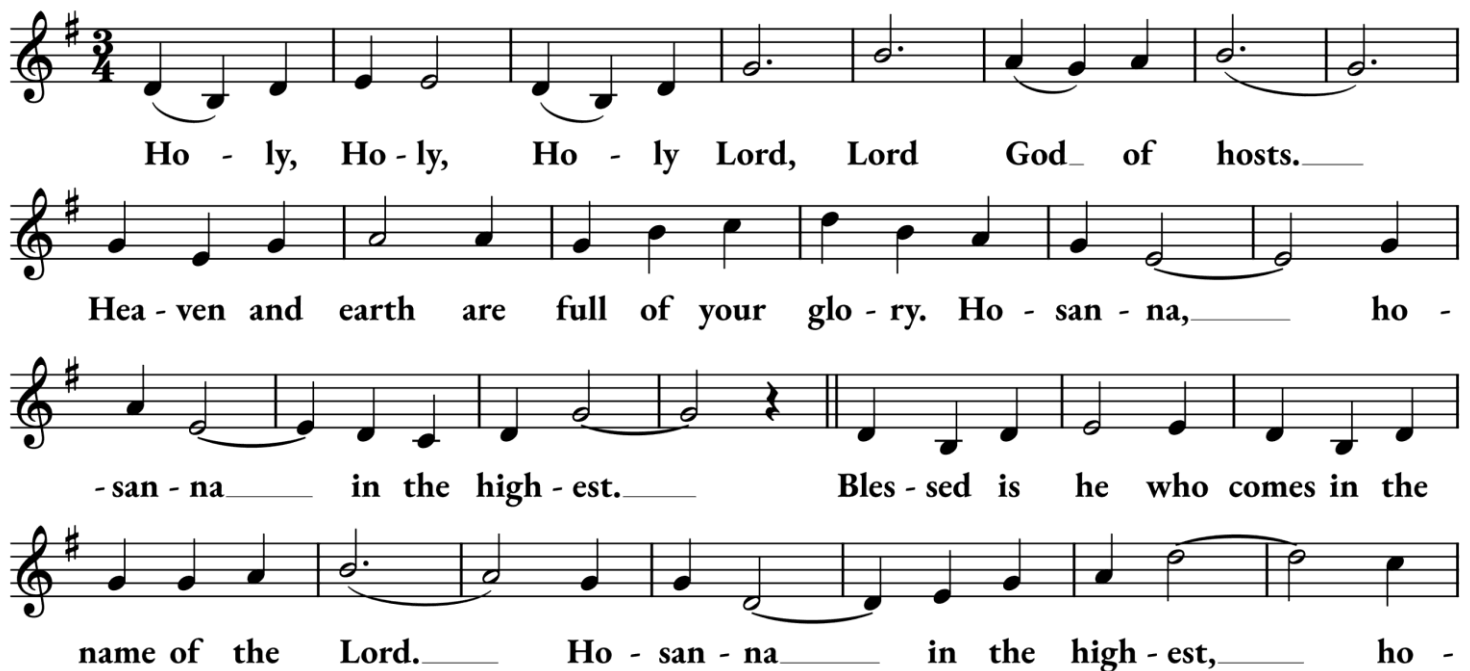
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right and just.

The Priest continues with the Preface of the Nativity of the Lord.

He concludes the Preface, then all sing

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of hosts.____

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na,____ ho -

- san - na____ in the high - est.____ Bles - sed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord.____ Ho - san - na____ in the high - est,____ ho -



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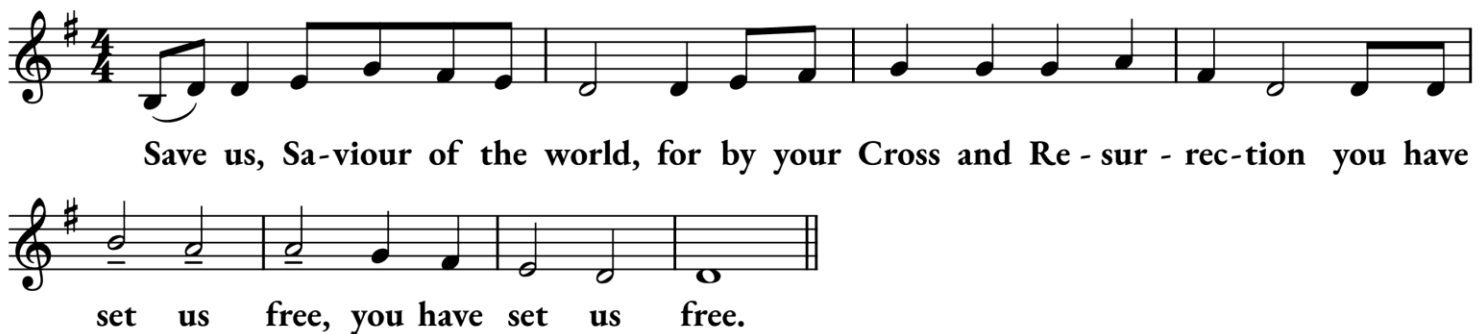
All kneel.

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

After the Consecration, the Priest says or sings

The mystery of faith.

All respond



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At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, he takes the consecrated elements and lifts them up, singing

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 respond



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THE COMMUNION RITE

All stand.

The Priest says

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.**

The Priest continues, saying

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.**

The Priest continues

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.

All Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And with your spirit.

Deacon Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another the sign of peace: either a handshake or a bow of acknowledgement, saying "Peace be with you", which are an expression of peace, communion, and charity.

During the breaking of the host, the following is sung by all

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer -

- cy on us. world, grant us peace,

grant us peace.

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After the Agnus Dei, the people kneel.

HOLY COMMUNION

After his private prayers of preparation the Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud

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.

After the Priest has reverently consumed the Body and Blood of Christ, the communicants come forward in reverent procession, and make a profound bow, genuflection, or other suitable act of reverence in honour of Christ's presence in the Sacrament.

The people receive Holy Communion either kneeling or standing, on the tongue or in the hand.

Those not receiving Holy Communion are invited to approach for a blessing.

As the communicant receives, the Priest or Minister says

The Body/Blood of Christ.

The communicant replies

Amen.

During Holy Communion, the choir sings

1. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.
2. O little one sweet, O little one mild.
in thee Love's beauties are all distilled;
then light in us thy love's bright flame,
that we may give thee back the same,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.
3. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
help us to do as thou hast willed.
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!
Ah, keep us in our fealty!
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Words: German, from Samuel Scheidt's 'Tabulaturbuch' (1650) tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)
Music: German, from Samuel Scheidt's 'Tabulaturbuch' (1650), harmonised by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Music: Traditional Norman tune arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

Then, please sing

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to men
from heaven’s all-gracious King”,
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring;
oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!
3. For lo! the days are hastening on
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when the new heav’n and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their king,
and all the world repeat the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: E. H. Sears (1810-76)

Music: “Noel”, by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

And, if required,

1. In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
2. Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him, whom Cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay:
enough for him whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.
4. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved
with a kiss.

5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti (1830-94)
Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the Priest says

Let us pray.

All stand.

The Priest says the Prayer after Communion, to which all respond

***All* Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Priest begins the Solemn Blessing, saying

The Lord be with you.

***All* And with your spirit.**

Deacon Bow down for the blessing.

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,
drive far from you the darkness of vice
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

***All* Amen.**

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.**

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.

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.

Deacon Go in peace.

All Thanks be to God.

All sing

1. Joy to the world; the Lord has come!
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the Earth, the Saviour reigns;
Our mortal songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), based on Psalm 98
Music: "Antioch", by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)



We'd love you to stay connected with us
and share in all the excitement as the
parish of St Peter and the Winchester
Martyrs celebrates 100 years of St Peter's
Church.

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