

THE NAVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS: AT THE VIGIL MASS

DECEMBER 24, 2020; 4:00 PM



ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH—MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

REV. PAUL CONNOLLY, CELEBRANT

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come,
and he will save us,
and in the morning you will see his glory.

ENTRANCE HYMN (CANTORS ONLY)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

GREETING, PENETENTIAL RITE

ADESTE FIDELES; Text: John F. Wade

GLORIA

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

R. (2a) **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.

At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

He shall say of me, "You are my father, my God, the rock, my savior."

Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm.

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

SECOND READING

Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.' From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

The Savior of the world will reign over us.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

HOMILY

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God, the Father, the 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 (bow) 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL “Lord, hear our prayer.”

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

HYMN OF PREPARATION (*CANTORS ONLY*)

The First Nowell

Traditional English Carol, 17th century

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father,”

People: **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

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**
It is truly right and just.....
.....
.....And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions, and with all hosts
and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

HOLY **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.**

MYSTERY OF FAITH

After the words of Institution of the Eucharist, the Priest sings or says:

The mystery of faith:

All: **Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

The Eucharistic Prayer culminates and concludes when the Priest sings:

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

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven.....
.....but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: 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 Savior,
Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

RITE OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And with your spirit.**

The people exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: 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.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION—*ST. ALPHONSUS LIGOURI*

(For those who are unable to physically receive Communion with us today.)

**My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All: **The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.**

COMMUNION HYMN (CANTORS ONLY)

Silent Night

Text: J. Mohr, b. 1792;

Music: STILLE NACHT; Franz Gruber, b. 176

COMMUNION PROCESSION

*If you are not of the Catholic faith, or do not wish to receive Communion today,
please join procession, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL HYMN (CANTORS ONLY)

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, b. 1764

Music: ANTIOCH; G. F. Handel, b. 1685



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

CANTORS Katie McCormick, Natalie McCormick, Olivia McCormick,
Jackie Tansey, Katherine Tansey

ORGANIST Carmen

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