

**Gathering Hymn – Love Has Come – *On your songsheets***

**Greeting**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**Penitential Act Form A (Confiteor)**

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, 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.

**Collect**

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Reading 1** **IS 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.

**Responsorial Psalm** **PS 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29**

**R.** 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.**

## **Reading 2** ACTS 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.'"

## **Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Savior of the world will reign over us.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**P. The Lord be with you.**

**R. And with your spirit.**

**P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel** MT 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah

became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations. Now 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.

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**P.** The Gospel of the Lord

**R.** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **Homily**

### **Profession of Faith**

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

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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**

**P.** Even as we celebrate this most joyous day, we know that many here at home and all over the world cannot fully share in that joy. We turn now to God with those needs that diminish our joy and the joy of others.

**LECTOR:** For the Church, that we may be a visible sign of God's great love for humanity and in the continuing presence of Christ in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** That the promise of peace and justice for all peoples may be realized, especially for those who live in nations at war or in conditions of oppression, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For all those who struggle to find food, warm clothing, shelter, heat, or employment, that through our Christian desire to offer charity and care, their needs may be fulfilled until the day that the world is free from want, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For expectant mothers, that they may receive the health care they need and be kept safe from harm as they prepare to bring new life into the world, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** That all of us in this Christian community may share in the joy of this blessed day and bring that joy to share with our families, friends, and all our loved ones, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For the silent prayers we hold in our hearts and for the intentions in the book of prayers: that they will be joined to those of our Blessed Virgin Mary, our patron St. Matthew, and all the saints, we pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P.** Loving God, we rejoice as we celebrate the birth of your Son, your most precious gift, who answers the many prayers we have made, make now, and will continue to make. Listen to our prayers and grant them in your unparalleled generosity through the One whose coming we proclaim, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen**

## **Preparation of the Gifts and Altar – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – On your song sheets**

**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.

*Then he places the paten with the bread on the corporal. If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

*The Deacon, or the Priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:*

**P.** By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The Priest then takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:*

**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.

*Then he places the chalice on the corporal. If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Invitation to Prayer**

**P.** With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

*If appropriate, he also incenses the offerings, the cross, and the altar. A Deacon or other minister then incenses the Priest and the people.*

*Then the Priest, standing at the side of the altar, washes his hands, saying quietly:*

**P.** Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

*Standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he says:*

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

**R. 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.**

*Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim:*

**R. Amen.**

## **Preface Dialogue**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**R.** It is right and just.

## **Preface Acclamation**

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.

## **The Mystery of Faith**

**P.** The mystery of faith.

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

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**R.** 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.

## **Doxology**

**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 Savior, Jesus Christ.

**R.** For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

## **Sign of Peace**

**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.

**R.** Amen.

**P.** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R.** And with your spirit.

*If appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:*

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

*Comment: If the priest says "Let us offer each other the sign of peace." The congregation should avoid any contact with each other, and instead offer some other appropriate gesture. Then he takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:*

**P.** May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**P.** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R.** And with your spirit. 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**

**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.

### **Communion Hymn – O Holy Night / Silent Night - On your songsheets**

#### **Concluding Rites**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**P.** Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**R.** Thanks be to God.

### **Closing Hymn – Joy to the World - On your songsheets**