

**Gathering Hymn – O Come, All Ye Faithful - 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**

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.

**Reading 1** **IS 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

**Responsorial Psalm** **PS 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.**

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

## **Reading 2** HEB 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my son; this day I have begotten you? Or again: I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me? And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

## **Alleluia**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**R.** And with your spirit.

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

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

## **Gospel** JN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came

through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

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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 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 – O Little Town of Bethlehem – On your songsheets**

**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 forever.

## **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 – Angels We Have Heard on High - 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 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - On your songsheets**