

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 9:1-6**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Responsorial Psalm **PS 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13.**

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.

R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Reading 2 **TI 2:11-14**

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

Alleluia **LK 2:10-11**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **LK 2:1-14**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled 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 her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

P. The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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 – 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