

Gathering Hymn

Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is
3. And, through all his won - drous child - hood, He would
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
hon - or and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly
day like us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for his bed.
sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall.
maid - en In whose gen - tle arms he lay.
help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew.
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove.



Mar - y was that moth - er mild;
With the poor and meek and low - ly
Chris - tian chil - dren all should be
And he feels for all our sad - ness,
And he leads his chil - dren on



Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
Kind, o - be - dient, good as he.
And he shares in all our glad - ness.
To the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.
Tune: IRBY, 8 7 8 7 77; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876; harm. by Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

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 were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Reading 1 [GN 15:1-6; 21:1-3](#)

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Responsorial Psalm [PS 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9](#)

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD! Look to the LORD in his strength; constantly seek his face.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

You descendants of Abraham, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones! He, the LORD, is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations which he entered into with Abraham and by his oath to Isaac.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Reading 2 HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age -- and Sarah herself was sterile -- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Alleluia COL 3:15A, 16A

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

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 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And

coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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. The favor of God was upon Jesus as he matured. We pray now that the favor of the Lord may be upon us as we give voice to the needs of all.

LECTOR: For the Church, that we treat our sisters and brothers with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience as we strive to build God's kingdom throughout the entire human family, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For leaders of nations, that they may respect the bond of individual families as well as foster the unity of the human family across nations and cultures, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For parents of babies, children and teens, that they may exercise patience as they raise their children with love and kindness, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For healing and hope for parents who have lost a child, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. That members of this community may reach out to those without immediate family and offer their love and time and give witness to the bond we share in Christ, 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. Heavenly Father, we look to the Holy Family for inspiration and support as we nurture the bonds of love that bind our families together. Listen to our needs and grant our prayers through the One whose coming we proclaim, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Preparation of the Gifts and Altar

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath
2. I - sa - iah 'twas for - told it, The Rose I have in
3. This Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, As seers of old have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -



sung. It came, a blos - som bright, A -
kind. To show God's love a - right, She
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From



mid the cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us, And light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text: Isaiah 11:1; *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*; Speyer *Gesangbuch*, 1599; tr. sts. 1, 2 by Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; st. 3, Friedrich Layritz, 1808–1859; tr. by Harriet Reynolds Krauth, 1845–1925, alt.
Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS' ENSTSPRUNGEN, 7 6 7 6 7 6 6; *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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 Next Page

Communion Hymn

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife The
4. For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By



glo - rious song of old, From an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly
world has suf - fered long; Be - neath the heav'n - ly
proph - ets seen of old, When with the ev - er -



near the earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace
mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. A -
hymn have rolled Two thou - sand years of wrong; And
cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told, When



on the earth, good will to all, From
bove its sad and low - ly plains They
war - ring hu - man - kind hears not The
peace shall o - ver all the earth Its



heav'n's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
bend on hov - 'ring wing, And ev - er o'er its
tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
an - cient splen - dors fling, And all the world give



still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
cease your strife And hear the an - gels sing.
back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.
Tune: CAROL, CMD; Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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.

Continued next page

Closing Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis -
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah This bless - ed babe was
3. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A bless - ed an - gel
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings Re - joic - ed much in
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this



may; Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was
born, And laid with - in a man - ger Up -
came, And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought
mind, And left their flocks a - feed - ing In
place, And with true love and char - i - ty Each



born on Christ - mas day To save us all from
on this bless - ed morn, For which his moth - er
tid - ings of the same, How that in Beth - le -
tem - pest, storm, and wind, And went to Beth - le -
oth - er now em - brace; This ho - ly tide of



Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
Mar - y Did noth - ing take in scorn.
hem was born The Son of God by name.
hem straight - way, This bless - ed babe to find.
Christ - mas All oth - ers shall re - place.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Text: English carol, 18th C.

Tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY, 8 6 8 6 8 6 with refrain: English carol, 18th C.; harm. by John Stainer, 1840-1901