

# FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Cycle A, B & C

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*All the earth proclaim the Lord,  
sing your praise to God.*

1. Serve you the Lord, heart filled with gladness.  
Come into his presence, singing for joy.
2. Know that the Lord is our creator.  
Yes, he is our Father, we are his sons.
3. We are the sheep of his green pasture,  
for we are his people; he is our God.
4. Enter his gates bringing thanksgiving,  
O enter his courts while singing his praise.
5. Honour and praise be to the Father,  
The Son, and the Spirit, world without end.

## 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

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4  
*The time will come when she who is to give birth will  
give birth.*

The Lord says this:

'You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of  
Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend

his power to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.'

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 12:6-7. R] Is 61:10

**R. I exult for joy in the Lord.**

1. Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
Let my heart rejoice in your saving help. (R.)
2. Let me sing to the Lord for his goodness to me,  
singing psalms to the name of the Lord, the Most  
High. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:28-30  
*Those whom God foreknew he also predestined.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God  
co-operates with all those who love him, with all those  
that he has called according to his purpose. They are  
the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to  
become true images of his Son, so that his Son might  
be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he  
intended for this; those he called he justified, and with  
those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary,  
and most worthy of all praise,  
for the sun of justice, Christ our God,  
was born of you.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:1-16.18-23  
*Mary has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.*

\* This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His  
mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they  
came to live together she was found to be with child  
through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a  
man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity,  
decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his  
mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared  
to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do  
not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because  
she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.  
She will give birth to a son and you must name him  
Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his  
people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil  
the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'

The Gospel of the Lord. \*



## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
(All bow)  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Lord, accept this bread and wine;  
Take our hearts and make them Thine.  
Take our work and our anxiety  
Give us life and liberty.
2. Change this bread into your body  
and this wine into your blood;  
Change our lives, make us united, Lord,  
to spread the love of Christ, the Lord.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

1. My soul proclaims the Lord my God,  
my spirit sings his praise!  
He looks on me, he lifts me up,  
and gladness fills my days.
2. All nations now will share my joy,  
His gifts he has outpoured;  
His little one he has made great;  
I magnify the Lord.
3. For those who love his holy name,  
His mercy will not die.  
His strong right arm puts down the proud  
And lifts the lowly high.
4. He fills the hungry with good things,  
The rich he sends away.  
The promise made to Abraham  
is filled to endless day.
5. Magnificat, magnificat,  
magnificat, praise God!  
praise God, praise God, praise God, praise God  
magnificat, praise God.



1. Holy Virgin by God's decree  
You were called eternally  
That He could give His Son to our race  
Mary, we praise you, hail, full of grace!  
*Ave, Ave, Ave Maria (x2)*
2. By your faith and loving accord  
As the handmaid of the Lord  
You undertook God's plan to embrace  
Mary, we thank you, hail, full of grace!
3. Joy to God you gave and expressed,  
Of all women none more blessed,  
When in mankind your Son took his place.  
Mary, we love you, hail, full of grace!
4. Refuge for your children so weak,  
Sure protection all can seek  
Problems of life you help us to face  
Mary, we trust you, hail full of grace!
5. To our needy world of today,  
Love and beauty you portray,  
Showing the path to Christ we must trace  
Mary, our Mother, hail full of grace!

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1. As I kneel before you,  
as I bow my head in prayer,  
take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.  
*Ave Maria, Gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu.*
2. All I have I give you,  
ev'ry dream and wish are yours,  
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine,  
present them to my Lord.
3. As I kneel before you,  
and I see your smiling face,  
ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
is lost in your embrace.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. I'll sing a hymn to Mary,  
the Mother of my God,  
the Virgin of all virgins,  
of David's royal blood.  
*O teach me, holy Mary,  
a loving song to frame,  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
to love and bless thy name.*
2. The Saints are high in glory,  
with golden crowns so bright;  
but brighter far is Mary,  
upon her throne of light.  
*O that which God did give thee,  
let mortal ne'er disclaim;  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
I'll love and bless thy name.*

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