

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. *

* Shorter Form, verses 18-23. Read between *



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

*Abba Father, let us be, yours and yours alone
Set our hearts, our spirits free
Make us, Lord your own*

1. Through your goodness, Lord we bring
Bread of our labour and wine to cheer the heart
Which will soon be filled for us
With the life of your Son.
2. Take this drop of water, too
Sign of our weakness, yet symbol of our love
By its mingling may we share, your dignity.

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!

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. Hail Queen of heav'n, the ocean star,
Guide of the wand'rer here below.
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care,
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,
pray for the wanderer, pray for me. (x2)
2. O gentle, chaste and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through Thee;
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,
pray for the sinner, pray for me. (x2)
3. And while to Him who reigns above.
in Godhead One, in Persons Three.
the source of life, of grace, of love.
homage we pay on bended knee
do Thou, bright Queen, star of the sea,
pray for Thy children, pray for me. (x2)

