

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Cycle A

ENTRANCE HYMN

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er our plains;
and the mountains in reply
echo still their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis deo (2)

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your rapturous strain prolong?
Say, what may your tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song.



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 Book of Ecclesiasticus
3:2-6.12-14
He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with
children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing
obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127:1-5. R) cf. v. 1

**R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians 3:12-21
Family life in the Lord.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves
you and you should be clothed in sincere
compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness
and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each
other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has
forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all
these clothes, to keep them together and complete
them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ
reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you
were called together as parts of one body. Always
be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness,
find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise
each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your
hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs
to God; and never say or do anything except in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you
should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and
treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to
your parents always, because that is what will
please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children
to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23
Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up,
take the child and his mother with you, and escape
into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because

Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

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

We offer you, O Lord Divine
Our humble gifts of bread and wine
We place them on your altar, Lord today
Make them worthy of your love
Send your blessings from above
Sanctify these gifts, O Lord we pray

*O take our hearts, take our minds
Take all we have make them Thine, O Lord
Take all we have, O Lord.*

COMMUNION HYMN

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;*

*Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

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1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a Mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
 2. He came do to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
 3. And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children, all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.
 4. For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Hark, the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark, the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

