

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (VIGIL MASS)

Entrance Antiphon:

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

ENTRANCE HYMNS

1. Come on and celebrate
His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life.

We'll shout your praise, O King
You give us joy nothing else can bring
We'll give to you our offering
In celebration praise.

*Come on and celebrate, celebrate
Celebrate and sing
Celebrate and sing to the king*

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1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (x2)
 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your glad some strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
 3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
 4. See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.



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 Isaiah 62:1-5
The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27.29. R] cf. v. 2

R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25
Paul's witness to Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not

- Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the new-born king.

V. WE THREE KINGS

- 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.*

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



The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger,
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend. (x2)

- Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim. (x2)

X. THE FIRST NOWELL

- The First Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they
lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel (x4) Born is the King of Israel!

- They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
- And by the light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far.
To seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

XI. LISTEN TO THE STORY

- Listen to the story that we love to tell
Story of the Holy One
Tell you of the Saviour who we love so well
Story of the Father's Son.

*Born as the baby in the midnight
Bringing us eternal day
Came like the dawning of the sunlight
Came to take our sins away (x2)*

- Though they wouldn't let him in the inn that night
You can let him in your heart
Wise men came to see him wearing silken robes
You can some just as you are.
- Angels told the story of a dying world
Listen as we sing it to you
Like the shepherd looking for a living Lord
Seek and you will find him too.

XII. GREAT DAY IN BETHLEHEM

*Great day in Bethlehem (x3)
In a stable at the back of the Inn.*

- The greatest story ever told
Was told on Christmas Day
Of two who came to Bethlehem
They'd come a long long way
Weary, tired, dusty and worn
They knocked at every inn,
There was a baby to be born,
A new life to begin. And it's a...
- Late that night, a Son was born
A Son who was to be
The Way for men to find the Truth
A light for them to see
Angels cried 'O Glory be'
Hosanna let us sing
Peace on earth, goodwill to men
Today is born a King. And it's a....

XIII. GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born*

- While shepherds kept their watching
O'er wandering flocks by night,
behold from out of heaven
there shone a holy light
- And lo, when they had seen it,
they all bowed down and prayed;
they travelled on together
to where the Babe was laid.

VI. WHAT CHILD IS THIS

- What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Come greet the infant Lord
The babe, the son of Mary.
- Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh
The babe, the son of Mary.

VII. WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

- While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the Angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
- "Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
- "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:

VIII. IT CAME UPON MIDNIGHT CLEAR

- It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
- Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

IX. O HOLY NIGHT

- Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born;
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.
- Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient lands.