

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**[VIGIL MASS]**

**ENTRANCE HYMNS**

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.
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

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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 gladsome 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 the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandals”.’

The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:1-25

*The ancestry of Jesus Christ, the son of David.*

\* *Short form only*\*

\* 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 fulfill 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.’ When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

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. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stand by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

1. 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.
2. 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.  
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  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend.

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1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
  2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.
  3. O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

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1. Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
‘Round your virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.



- 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.



#### 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.

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.