



**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 (SHORTER VERSION)**

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

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

\* 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**

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.

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.



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**

Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior'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. (2)

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. (2)

1 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright Round yon Virgin Mother and Child Holy Infant, so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace (2)

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah Christ, the Saviour is born. (2)

3 Silent night, holy night Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth (2)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, (3) Christ the Lord.*

God of God, light of light, lo! he abhors not the virgin's womb; very God, begotten not created:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heaven above: glory to God in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:



