

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** *Cf. Is 45: 8*  
Drop down dew from above, you  
heavens, and let the clouds rain  
down the Just One; let the earth be  
opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*R: Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel, Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vic'try o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and  
cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the Law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

**Priest:** In the name of the Father and  
of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Grace to you and peace from God our  
Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (Brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to  
celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the  
way to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have given us the  
consolation of the truth:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Good  
Shepherd, leading us into everlasting  
life: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**21st December 2025**

### The absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

### COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of  
Christ your Son was made known by  
the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his  
Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

SIT

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING 7:10-14

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said,  
"Ask the Lord your God for a sign for  
yourself coming either from the depths  
of Sheol or from the heights above,"  
"No," Ahaz answered  
"I will not put the Lord to the test."  
Then Isaiah said:  
"Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the  
patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God,  
too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Emmanuel,  
a name which means  
'God-is-with-us'".

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps23:1-6.R.vv.7.10*

**R. Let the Lord enter! He is the  
king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its people.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of  
the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and  
pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

### SECOND READING 1:1-7

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus  
who has been called to be an apostle,  
and specially chosen to preach the  
Good News that God promised long  
ago through his prophets in the  
scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God  
who, according to the human nature  
he took, was a descendant of David: it  
is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in  
the order of the spirit, the spirit of

holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

— **STAND** —

**ACCLAMATION Mt1:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

**1:18-24**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



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". When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



— **STAND** —

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (All bow during the next three lines) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**



**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

— **SIT** —

**Raising the host, the priest says:**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

**The priest pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:**

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

**Raising the chalice, the priest says:**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

**Bowing the priest says quietly:**

With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, O Lord.

**Then the priest washes his hands, saying quietly:**

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity; and cleanse me from my sin.

— **STAND** —

**Facing the people the priest says:**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III***  
***PREFACE: Advent II***

The Lord be with you.

**And with your Spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**The mystery of faith**

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

*Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:*

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ. May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles and glorious

Martyrs (with Saint N., the Saint of the day or Patron Saint) and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Leo, our Pope, and N. our Bishop, his assistant Bishop(s) the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,

whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory

*The Priest joins his hands.*

through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. †

*The Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, elevating both, he says:*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION RITE**



At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the  
glory  
are yours, now and for ever.**



Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give  
you, look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and  
unity in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you  
always.

**And with your Spirit.**

*The priest may add these or similar words.*

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*The priest places a small piece of the host in  
the chalice saying quietly:*

May this mingling of the body and  
blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

*Meanwhile the people sing or say:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world: grant us peace.**



*The priest says quietly:*

May the receiving of your Body and  
Blood, Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgment and  
condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body,  
and a healing remedy.

*Raising the host the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper  
of the Lamb.

*And together with the people he says once:*

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

May the Body of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

*The Priest reverently consumes the Body of  
Christ.*

*Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:*

May the Blood of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

*The Priest raises a host slightly and shows it  
to each of the communicants, saying:*

The Body of Christ.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *Is 7: 14*  
**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and  
bear a son; and his name will be  
called Emmanuel.**

### COMMUNION HYMN

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength,  
and scatters the proudhearted.  
He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
the mercy promised to our fathers,  
for Abraham and his children for ever.

Give praise to the Father Almighty,  
to his Son Jesus Christ, the Lord,  
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts,  
both now and for ever. **Amen.**

### PRIVATE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you come down on earth to  
be Emmanuel, God-with-us. You are  
Son of God and Son of Mary. I thank  
you for coming to me today. With all  
your people I am called to be a saint, a  
holy person. Help me to respond  
generously to the fact that I have been  
chosen to be a Christian by my baptism.  
May I be obedient to your word like  
Mary and Joseph for 'your word is a  
lamp for my steps and a light for my  
path'. Enable me to follow you who are  
the Way, the Truth and the Life and so  
come to eternal life with you.



### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal  
redemption, we pray, almighty God,  
that, as the feast day of our salvation  
draws ever nearer, so we may press  
forward all the more eagerly to the  
worthy celebration of the mystery of  
your Son's Nativity. Who lives and  
reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

May the almighty and merciful God,  
by whose grace you have placed your  
faith in the First Coming of his Only  
Begotten son and yearn for his coming  
again sanctify you by the radiance of  
Christ's Advent and enrich you with  
his blessing.  
**Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life,  
may he make you firm in faith,  
joyful in hope and active in charity.  
**Amen.**

So that you, rejoicing now with  
devotion at our Redeemer's coming in  
the flesh, you may be endowed with  
the rich reward of eternal life  
when he comes again in majesty.  
**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the  
Holy Spirit, come down on you and  
remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

**O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.**

*R. Dear Saviour, haste; come, come to  
earth:  
dispel the night, and show your face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.*

**O come, desired of nations,  
whom priests and prophets long  
foretold,  
will break the captive fetters,  
redeem the long-lost fold. R.**

**O come in peace and meekness,  
for lowly will thy cradle be:  
all clothed in human weakness  
shall we your Godhead see. R.**