

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

— STAND —

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Lk 2:16*

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and
the Infant lying in a manger.

ENTRANCE HYMN

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.*

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

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.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I
have failed to do,

Striking your breast as you say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



The absolution by the priest follows:

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

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

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.

COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy
Family, graciously grant that we may
imitate them in practising the virtues
of family life and in the bonds of
charity, and so, in the joy of your
house, delight one day in eternal
rewards. Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

28th December 2025

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

— SIT —

FIRST READING *3:2-6.12-14*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps127:1-5.R.v.1

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

- 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.**
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**
- 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.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

— STAND —

ACCLAMATION

Col3:15.16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

2:13-15.19-23

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.



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.

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

PREFACE OF *Nativity of The Lord I*

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.

For in the mystery of the Word

made flesh a new light of your glory

has shone upon the eyes of our mind,

so that, as we recognise in him God

made visible, we may be caught up

through him in love of things invisible.

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.

◀ KNEEL ▶

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 (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

◀ STAND ▶

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 judgement 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 Bar 3: 38
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

COMMUNION HYMN

**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.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

PRIVATE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

I thank you Jesus, that when you came into this world you came to a humble home as a member of a simple family.

Come into my home today, and stay always with me and my family.

My Jesus, forgive me all the times that through my own fault I have lost you. Forgive me the faults that make me difficult to live with.

Forgive me when I am too self-centred and do things that get on the nerves of other members of the family, and go on doing them even when I am asked not to.

Through the prayers of Mary and Joseph, help me to find you at all times, to find you in your Church, in the Eucharist, in the words of Scripture, and even in other members of my family and the events of daily life. Lord, bless my family, grant peace to my home, and bring us to the happiness of your family in heaven. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE: No. 11

Keep your family, we pray, O Lord, in your constant care, so that, under your protection, they may be free from all troubles and by good works show dedication to your name. Through Christ our Lord. **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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

**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, (x3)
Christ the Lord.*

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