

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,
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.

31st December 2023

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.**

SECOND READING**3:12-17****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:**2:22-40**

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.



Glory to you, O Lord.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy

Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

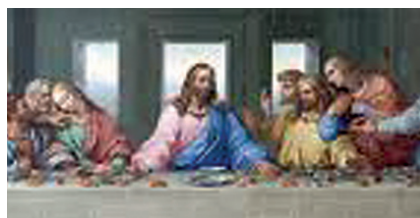
As the child's Father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom, and God's favour was on him.

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 II

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, the fount of all holiness.

The Priest joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body ✠ and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, 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, once more giving thanks, he gave it 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, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis, our Pope, our Bishop, N. his assistant Bishop(s), and all the clergy. Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles and with all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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.**

(KNEEL)

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,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing**