

Midnight Mass

INTRODUCTION

The Christmas Crib may be blessed.

In the name of the Father,
and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The priest welcomes the congregation.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace: Christ, have mercy.

℟. **Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives: Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May God, who loved the world so much that he sent his only-begotten Son to be our Saviour, forgive ✠ you your sins and make you holy in his service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is recited.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you

are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

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.

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings Set 1

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9.2-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Psalm 96

℟. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

(All repeat)

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. ℟.

Proclaim his salvation day by day;
tell his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all the peoples. ℟.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad;
let the sea and all within it thunder praise;
let the land and all it bears rejoice. ℟.

Let all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. ℟.

SECOND READING

Titus 2.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1.14

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us:
and we have seen his glory.

℟. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2.1–14

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

All stand to recite the NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(All kneel) **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

(All stand) **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.**

We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

The priest introduces the INTERCESSIONS.

In the peace of this blessed night, let us pray to the Lord.

All kneel. This response follows each prayer:

∩. Lord, in your mercy:

℣. **Hear our prayer.**

The Intercessions end:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may sit for the OFFERTORY. *The priest may praise God for his gifts, to which all respond:*

Blessed be God for ever.

All stand for the PRAYER over the OFFERINGS.

Pray, my 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 Church.

Lord, accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation. By our communion with God made man, may we become more like him who joins our lives to yours, for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death;

rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is said.

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

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

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Holy Communion is distributed.

Visitors: If you normally receive Communion in your home church, you are welcome to do so here. Otherwise, we invite you to come forward, *holding this leaflet*, for a Blessing.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed his love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

24-25.12.20