

# First Sunday after Christmas

## INTRODUCTION

### INTROIT CAROL

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.

**R. And also with you.**

*The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.*  
As we kneel with the shepherds before the  
newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in  
penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you were born for our salvation.  
Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and  
peace.

Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of  
our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**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.*

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us  
in your own image and yet more wonderfully  
restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our human-  
ity, so we may share the life of his divinity;  
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 for Year C

### FIRST READING

*1 Sam 2.18–20,26*

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a  
boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used  
to make for him a little robe and take it to  
him each year, when she went up with her  
husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then  
Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say,  
'May the Lord repay you with children by this  
woman for the gift that she made to the Lord';  
and then they would return to their home.  
Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both  
in stature and in favour with the Lord and  
with the people.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia! We will praise the name  
of the Lord. (*All repeat*)

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea creatures and all deeps;  
fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy winds that obey his word; R.

Mountains and all hills,  
fruitful trees and all cedars;  
beasts wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds on the wing; R.

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
youths and maidens, old and young together.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord. R.

For his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
He raises up strength for his people and  
praise for his saints,  
for the children of Israel who are near to him.  
[R.]

## SECOND READING

Col 3.12–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,  
humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with  
one another and, if anyone has a complaint  
against another, forgive each other; just as  
the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must  
forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect  
harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts, to which indeed you were called  
in the one body. And be thankful. Let the  
word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and  
admonish one another in all wisdom; and with  
gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,  
and spiritual songs to God. And whatever  
you do, in word or deed, do everything in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God  
the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our fathers through  
the prophets:  
but now he has spoken to us through his Son.  
R. **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

Lk 2.41–52

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.**

Now the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem  
every year at the Feast of the Passover. And  
when he was twelve years old, they went up  
according to custom. And when the feast was  
ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus  
stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did  
not know it, but supposing him to be in the  
group they went a day's journey, but then  
they began to search for him among their  
relatives and acquaintances, and when they  
did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem,  
searching for him. After three days they found  
him in the temple, sitting among the teachers,  
listening to them and asking them questions.  
And all who heard him were amazed at his  
understanding and his answers. And when his  
parents saw him, they were astonished. And  
his mother said to him, "Son, why have you  
treated us so? Behold, your father and I have  
been searching for you in great distress." And  
he said to them, "Why were you looking for  
me? Did you not know that I must be in my  
Father's house?" And they did not understand  
the saying that he spoke to them. And he  
went down with them and came to Nazareth  
and was submissive to them. And his mother  
treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in  
stature and in favour with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*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 bow)* **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

*(all rise)* **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 INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:*

∇. Lord, hear us. R̄. **Lord, graciously hear us.**  
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, R̄. **Hear our prayer.**

*At the Commemoration of the Departed:*

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;  
R̄. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*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.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY CAROL

*The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says 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.**

Accept, Lord, the sacrifice we offer you, and through the prayers of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph grant that our families may be secure in your grace and peace; through Christ our Lord. **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:*  
Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you 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.*

*The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.*

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared  
at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help  
your Church to live as one family, united in  
love and obedience, and bring us all at last to  
our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **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 that 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.**

## RECESSIONAL CAROL

*The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.*

∨. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death.**

∨. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∨. And the Word was made flesh:

℟. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∨. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℟. **That we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. 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; through the  
same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**