



25 December 2017 CHRISTMAS – Mass During the Day Year B

JESUS CHRIST, GOD-WITH-US

A *Blessed Christmas to all! This is the day we have longed for, and for which we have been preparing during these past four weeks – the commemoration of the earthly birth of God’s eternal Son. No words can express the importance of that event in the history of humankind as well as our personal lives. In all truth we can say that, after the birth of Jesus Christ,*

nothing and nobody has been the same as before, for in him God has become a brother to every human being in the fullest sense. God’s incarnate Son has come to share our problems, worries, and aspirations that we might share God’s peace and God’s very life.

With hearts full of gratitude, let us offer ourselves totally to the Lord, especially in this Eucharistic celebration we are about to begin.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Greeting

P –Blessed be God who sent His only Son to be one of us. May His grace and peace be with you all.

All–And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God’s family on this Christmas Day, let us ask the Lord

to purify us from our past sins, that we may become worthy to stand in his presence. *(Pause)*

P –You came to reveal to us the love of the Father.

Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

P –You came to bring peace to the world. Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –You came to console those who are afflicted and rejected. Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

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

All–Amen!

Gloria

All –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 (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

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

All–Amen!



1st Reading *Is 52:7-10*

The invitation to “break out together in song,” originally addressed to the exiles before they returned to Jerusalem, is addressed to us today. God’s gifts of salvation and peace are offered to all in Jesus Christ.

R –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, “Your God is King!”

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem!

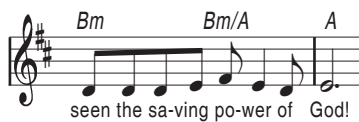
For the Lord comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 98*

R –*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God!*

R. M. Velez



* Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm. **R.**

* The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel. **R.**

* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song; sing praise! **R.**

* Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, sing joyfully before the King, the Lord! **R.**

2nd Reading *Heb 1:1-6*

Here is a beautiful synthesis of all that we believe about Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who became a human being for our salvation.

R –A proclamation from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets. In these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe.

He is the refulgence of God’s glory, the very imprint

of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say: “You are my son; this day I have begotten you”? Or again: “I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me”? And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: “Let all the angels of God worship him.”

The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Gospel *Jn 1:1-5.9-14*

The “Prologue” of St. John’s Gospel emphasizes that the man Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, is the Eternal Word of God who “was with God from the beginning.” He comes to reveal to us the love of the Father and to enable us to become God’s adopted children.

P –The Lord be with you!
All–And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All–Glory to you, O Lord!

In the beginning was *the Word*, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

GLOSSARY: • **The Word:** the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Son of God who became the God-Man Jesus Christ at the Incarnation. • **Flesh:** in the Prologue of St. John’s Gospel, this term is used to connote the frailty and all other limitations that characterize our human nature.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All —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, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. *(All genuflect and pause after reciting this sentence.)* 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 Fa-

ther 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

P —Our hearts are filled with joy on this Christmas Day when we commemorate the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With trust-filled hearts, let us address our petitions to the Father who gave us His only Son:

All—Most loving Father, be with us!

C —For the Church, the home of all believers: May she enjoy days of peace, and may holiness flourish abundantly in all her members. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the Holy Father, our Bishop, the priests who work in our parish and their generous collaborators: May the joy of this day bring happiness to their hearts and all the strength they need to continue serving the people of God. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For our civil authorities and all those in whose hands is the fate of billions of people: May the Christmas ideals of peace, brotherhood, and reconciliation constantly guide their decisions. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the sick, the elderly, the unemployed, the homeless, and all those who feel neglected by society: May they experience the love of God through the solidarity and generosity of all believers. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all our families, especially the ones that may be undergoing severe crises: May the spirit of Christmas help them rediscover the roots of their love and enable them to overcome all difficulties. Let us pray! **R.**

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions.
(Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord God, You are the source of our joy and salvation; You are the reason for our hope. May this Christmas produce in our hearts a lasting disposition of joy and peace until we celebrate it in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—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

P —Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Christmas II

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —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 on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, rais-

ing up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:
All—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!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!
All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

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

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –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.

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

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Prayer after Communion

P –Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Savior of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.
(Pause)

When he came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled this holy day with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness

of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.

All—Amen!

P –God sent His angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth. May He fill you with joy and make you heralds of His Gospel.

All—Amen!

P –When the Word became man, earth was joined to heaven. May he give you his peace and goodwill, and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

All—Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P –Go and share the joy of Christmas with all you meet!

All—Thanks be to God!

A CHRISTMAS WISH

Oh, how I wish that every day were Christmas in every corner of the world!

Not so much for the ever-favorite carols or the touching cribs; not even for the long vacation, nor for the bonus or the big parties . . .

For all their pleasantness, these things are not Christmas. They are just "wrappers" meant to highlight the preciousness of the gift within.

Christmas is much more than we can make or dream. Christmas is GOD WITH US. Christmas is GOD IN US.

Such is the wonder that He alone can bring about.

And, as He does it, deep in the secret of our hearts, we are made "new."

This is the reason why people feel different at Christmas.

We all feel "good," joyful and generous.

Even the fighters refrain from fighting, thieves stop their evil trade.

For one day, at least, people intend to live as *loving beings*. And everybody wonders

what the world would be like if every day were Christmas.

And if I could have my way and make the Christmas spirit last for ever in me and around me, we would have "Christmas-day two," then *three*, then *four* . . . And we would stop only when numbers end.

Thus, Christmas would become an ever-lasting event, as it was meant to be.

That was God's plan when He "invented" Christmas – the first, the original, the best . . . the one that was meant to last.

How sad we spoiled so much of it, or invented ever new wrappers while ignoring the gift . . .

But I know things can get better again. So, dearest Jesus, on your Birthday, may I be granted my Christmas wish:

Make all months December and every day in it the 25th.

Then will this "season of love" become a permanent event.

Then will all men and women become "Christmas people,"

thanks to the wonders that You effect in us, on Christmas day.

—Anonymous



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