

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN—**6**

Celebration Hymnal

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 PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON is sung.

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is sung.

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 and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ 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

FIRST READING

Mic 5.2-5

A reading from the prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 45

℟. On your right stands the Queen in garments of gold. (*All repeat*)

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones;
on your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house. **℟.**

So will the king desire your beauty;
he is your lord, so pay him homage.
The people of Tyre shall come with gifts;
the richest of the people shall seek your favour.

*R. On your right stands the Queen in
garments of gold.*

The king's daughter is clothed with splendour,
her robes embroidered with cloth of gold.
She is brought to the king with her maiden
companions;
they enter his palace amid joy and gladness. *R.*

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers:
you will make them rulers over all the earth.
I will make your name to be remembered for
ever;
therefore shall the peoples praise you from
age to age. *R.*

SECOND READING

Rom 8.18–30

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes

for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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

GRADUAL HYMN

**A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.**

Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, ave Maria!

**Divinely preserved from the stain of all sin,
In her, the new Eve, did redemption begin.**

Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, ave Maria!

**Predestined for Christ by eternal decree,
God willed her both Virgin and Mother to be.**

Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, ave Maria!

**Now all generations acclaim her as blest,
Who leads wand'ring sinners to heavenly rest.**

Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, ave Maria!

**Rejoice and be glad on this festival day;
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'!**

Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, ave Maria!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1.38

Alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let it be to me according to your word. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

Lk 1.39–47

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 Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

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 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. ℟. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ℣. Lord, in your mercy, ℟. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

℣. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℟. **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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **652**

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.

God our Father, your handmaid Mary fed your Son at her virgin breast: nourish us at your altar with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation; 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:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

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 sung.

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.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Holy Communion is distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN—263

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption you visit us with your Holy Spirit and overshadow us by your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; 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.

When the Word became flesh, earth was joined to heaven in the womb of Mary: may the love and obedience of Mary be your example. **Amen.**

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and homes. **Amen.**

May you be filled with the joy of the Spirit and the gifts of your eternal dwelling. **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 HYMN—684

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. Amen.**

∨. 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.**