

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us.....Amen.

THE 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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ecc 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One. 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
 Zion, praise your God!
 He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
 he has blessed the children within you.

[R]

- 2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. [R]
- 3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. [R]

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-5.9-14 (shorter form only)

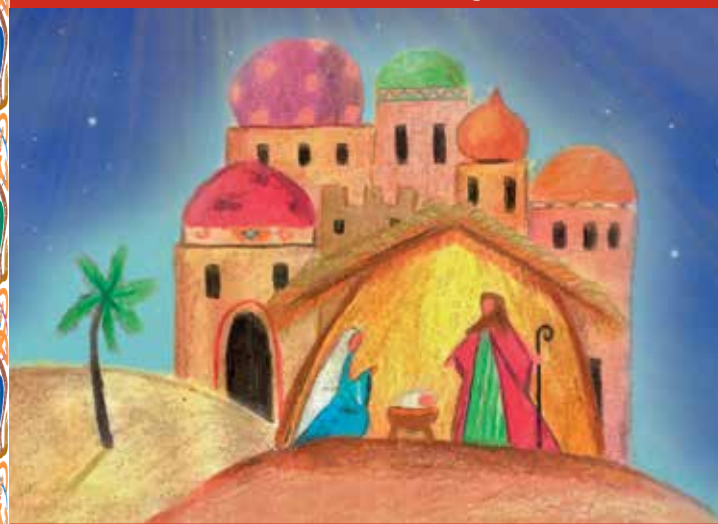
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh, or will of man but of God himself.



focus on sunday

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.



The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
 And with your spirit.
 Go in peace.
 Thanks be to God.



We live in a season of lights – candle lights, Christmas lights, lights on the street and on the houses. As the season is still with us, we can ask what light enlightens our lives? What light do we live by?

Jesus is presented as an image of the true light. His gospel shines light into our lives and lets our light shine.

We live by the light of Jesus by listening to his word, living by his example and in prayer. Pope Francis recommends: "Today, for example, try for 10 to 15 minutes, no more - to read the Gospel, picture what happens, and say something to Jesus. And nothing more. And so your knowledge of Jesus will be bigger and your hope will grow. Do not forget, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, in order to do this contemplative prayer".

We allow his light shine in us by watching him in the gospel and trying to live his gospel of love as he spoke it. The word of God is not just a series of human words, but a Person who is the Son of God. We find this light in prayer.

Later in his ministry, Jesus will speak of letting our light shine. The light within us from God is not just for ourselves but to be shared for others. We can switch on God's light for each other in speaking about him, praying with each other, taking part in the Mass and in any service we do for others, close to us and those far away.

That is the light of Christmas, if we can shine this light for a few days, why not for the rest of the year?

Let your light O Lord Shine within me, and let your light brighten the lives of those around me.

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