

# CHRISTMAS

## 1. Vigil Mass of Christmas

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Ex 16:6-7*

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us.

And in the morning you will see his glory.

### COLLECT

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer we may also merit to look upon him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Is 40:5*

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, to draw new vigor from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Gospel** The Genealogy of Jesus

**Is 62:1-5** Bridegroom comes to delight in the bride

**Ps 89** God's eternal goodness)

**Acts 13:16- 17 , 22-25** (recap of salvation history)

### Key ideas and words

Always looking forward

Expectations about to be fulfilled  
Glory will be revealed.

Morning / new dawn.

A yearly gift from God  
Cycle of our worship spins again  
Gladness for redemption Joy  
We welcome him now  
And again as our judge at Parousia

Eager anticipation of festivity, joy, fun.  
Eagerly wanting to serve  
Get stuck into our thankful response to the redemptive process.

Glory will be revealed  
All flesh i.e. us will see the Word made flesh.  
A visceral as well as visual encounter with the source of our salvation;  
the person of Christ.

The new life of the new child brings us new life.  
We encounter this every time we eat sacramentally the body and blood of the Lord.  
Every Mass is thus a Christmas as well as Easter

## 2. Mass at Midnight

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *P2:7 or theology*

The Lord said to me, You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day

Or:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

### COLLECT

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true Light, grant, we pray, that we who have known the mysteries of his light on earth may also delight in his gladness in heaven.

Who lives and reigns with you.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Jn 1:14*

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity may through an honorable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Gospel** Luke 2:1-14 (Birth of Jesus)

**Is 9:1-6** The enthronement anthem of the messiah's kingdom

### Key ideas and words

God claims Jesus as his son  
"Begotten not made"

ALL rejoice  
Our Savior has come  
True Peace has come world changed  
Gift from heaven.  
God's initiative freely given

Night gives way to light, a new dawn/day  
The mystery of God's light (way) has been revealed to us (Jesus)  
This earthly light lead us to heaven.

Oblation  
(we offer to God ourselves in the gifts)  
we have to be pleasing, that's what advent was for!  
Do it to please God (not appease God)  
Wonderful exchange  
As we oblate so we become one with that which we oblate. Imago Dei

John's Gospel prologue.  
Not just written about but seen.  
(With eyes of faith we see Him too in Eucharist).

Our glad response to this great gift of redemption in the Christ child/event is our lives lived worthily and honorably.  
Union  
The glory of God is a human fully alive  
St Ireneaus

**Psalm 96** sing a new song and bless the Lord  
**Titus 2:11-14** Salvation for all

### 3. Mass at Dawn

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** *Is 9:1, 5 and Lk 1:33*

Today,  
a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;  
and he will be called  
Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages:  
his reign will be without end.

#### COLLECT

Grant, we pray,-almighty God, that, as we are bathed  
in the new radiance of your incarnate Word,  
the light of faith which illumines our minds may also  
shine through in our deeds.

#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord, of  
the mysteries of the Nativity this day, that, just as  
Christ was born a man yet also shone forth as God,  
so may these earthly gifts confer on us what is  
divine.  
Through Christ our Lord.

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Zech 9:9*

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion;  
lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:  
Behold, your King will come,  
the Holy One and Savior of the world.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, Lord,  
as we honor with joyful devotion the Nativity of  
your Son,  
that we may come to know with fullness of faith,  
the hidden depths of this mystery and to love them  
ever more and more. Through Christ our Lord.

**Gospel** Lk 2:15-20 The shepherd's visit Jesus.

**Isaiah 62 11-12** Salvation is promised to the  
daughter of Zion

**Psalms 97** Be glad in the Lord

**Titus 3:4-7** saved by God's mercy

#### Key ideas and words

Today...it's happening now  
Light... show the Way  
Lord born for us .... Incarnation has purpose; us  
Great Titles of the Messiah  
Reign forever...the in-breaking of Lord of history  
  
Bathed (baptismal overtone)  
New light that comes from the Word made flesh  
(Senses invoked here)  
New light of faith  
Mind and body. Need our acts to shine out  
(Fst. Christ the King, Gospel is last judgment  
about deeds)  
  
Our worthiness incorporated into the gifts  
And suffice the gift of Jesus  
Christ is incarnate yet His divinity shines  
These earthly gifts bring us foretaste of heaven  
the divine realm.  
(Catabasis and anabasis again)  
  
Daughter of Zion = Jerusalem but now also  
means us the Church, the New Jerusalem.  
  
Royal savior is Holy one.  
Savior of all (the world) Univesalism  
  
Honor joyful devotion  
  
Grow in knowledge of God  
through fullness of  
Mystery revealed  
  
To love the faith and the mystery.

## 4. Mass During the Day

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON. *Isaiah 9:6*

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.

### COLLECT

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.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable,  
O Lord, this solemn day's oblation  
by which our reconciliation has come forth,  
gaining your infinite favor, and  
inaugurating for us the fullness of divine worship.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Ps 98 (97) :3*

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

**Gospel** Jn 1:1-18 The prologue The true light has  
come

**Is 52:7-10** "You God is King" (beautiful feet)

**Psalm 98** Sing a New Song

**Hebrews 1:1-6** God speak through Jesus

### Key ideas and words

A reason for the birth is given ... us  
A Son is one who can inherit and represent  
The scepter is the rod of authority used by Kings  
and Field Marshals.  
This rests on His shoulder a sign of God the Father  
conferring all authority on this child.  
Title of wonderful counsellor  
These titles are about God-like qualities Is 9:6

Fearfully and wonderfully made. Ps 139  
Human nature "Is very good" Genesis... creation.  
But not lost redeemed...restored (by blood)  
Our destiny is to share in God' divinity because  
Jesus came to be one of us  
(Catabasis and Anabasis again)

Our own efforts are not enough / not acceptable  
We need God to make them so  
Eucharist (feast of D&R of Christ) is a sacrament of  
reconciliation  
Put us in God's good books! (Favor is a baptismal  
word (see Jesus's Baptism and our Baptismal rites)  
Jesus gives us a new worship that supersedes that  
of the OT forms and formulas.  
It is a complete form of worship

This birth is world changing; no boundaries  
The child is for all and reveals God's salvific  
(through sacrifice) love for us.

We recognize God's hand of mercy in all of thi.  
Today salvation has come, (catabasis) in time.  
His presence commences a new beginning, new  
book if you will.  
That brings us the promise of immortality  
(anabasis)

## Nativity of the Lord Preface 1

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.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh  
a new light of your glory has shone upon  
the eyes of our mind,  
so that, as we recognize in him God made visible,  
we may be caught up through him in love of things  
invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

### Key ideas and Words

*The intimate love of God is incarnated in us*  
Mystery en-fleshed...real ...visceral  
We see by the New Light of God's Glory  
Enters into our very self (this mystery is incarnated in us) We become wise  
Graced with ability to recognize God the utterly other (beyond our senses) in Jesus  
Through our intimacy with Jesus Christ we enter into, share and return love for the intimate love (grace) of God has shared with us.

## Nativity of the Lord Preface 2

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 his 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, raising 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 Angels.  
we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

### *Think of the words of the Creed*

The Mystery is awesome – fascinating !  
God is the maker of all things visible and invisible.  
Revealing is taking place. Sharing humanity.  
God's eternal plan and intent is being made known in Jesus. Begetting.  
The Lord of history has entered time.  
Anabasis over catabasis  
Restoration, healing, unifying,  
ALL of Creation  
Reorienting Humanity towards God and his eternal Kingdom..

## Nativity of the Lord Preface 3

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 through him the holy exchange that restores  
our life  
has shone forth today in splendor:  
when our frailty is assumed by your word  
not only does human mortality  
receive unending honour  
but by this wondrous union we, too,  
are made eternal.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,  
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

### Key ideas and Words

#### *The wonderful exchange*

This exchange of God's son into the human realm of creation brings us the hope of fullness of life again. It is the ultimate medicine.

Again anabasis overpowering catabasis  
Opposites sited.

Splendor ---- frailty

Mortality ---- eternal

This 'wondrous union' of us in Christ is only possible because Christ became one of us. God entering into and uniting with his creation. (the unending honor of God walking with us).

See the opening of 1<sup>st</sup> letter of John