

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) < ABC

At the Mass During the Day

December 25, 2023

holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation. Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim. In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

## For the Dead

Remember also, Lord, your servants *N.* and *N.*, who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace (Through Christ our Lord. Amen) To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, (Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia) and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord. Through whom you continue to make all these good thing, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

## Concluding Doxology

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever, and ever. **Amen.**

## Communion Rite

### 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.

*Priest:*

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant us peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*People:*

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

## Sign Of Peace

*Priest* : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your  
Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I  
give you; look not on our sins, but on the  
faith of your Church, and graciously grant  
her peace and unity in accordance with  
your will. Who live and reign for ever and  
ever.

*People* : **Amen**

*Priest* : The peace of the Lord be with you  
always

*People* : **And with your Spirit**

*Priest* : Let us offer each other the sign of peace

## Breaking of the Bread

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:*

**Have mercy on us.**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:*

**Have mercy on us.**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:*

**Grant us peace.**

## Reception of Communion

*Priest* : 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.

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

*Priest* : The body of Christ.

Answer : **Amen**

*Priest* : The blood of Christ.

Answer : **Amen**

## Communion

### Prayer after Communion

**[Giver of Immortality]**

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.  
**R/ Amen.**

## General Announcements

## Blessing

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. **R/ Amen.**

When the Word became man, earth was joined to  
heaven. May he give you his peace and good will,  
and fellowship with all the heavenly host. **R/ Amen.**

May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the  
Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **R/ Amen.**

Go in peace with Christ and bear witness to his  
love. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

**MC: Greeting**

**Entrance song**

**STAND**

## Introduction by the Celebrant

**ENTRANCE ANT.** *[The Gift of God's Son]*

*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.*

## Penitential Act

Jesus come among those who were his own,  
and his own people did not accept him.  
Do we accept him, always and fully?

Let us examine ourselves:

*(pause)*

Lord Jesus, you look down with favor  
on what is little and vulnerable:

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

Jesus Christ,  
you fill the hungry with good things  
and the satisfied you send away empty handed:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you come to your people and set them free:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Have mercy on us, Lord,  
and touch us with your forgiving mercy.  
Help us live as your sons and daughters  
and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## Glory to God in the highest

**C: Collect** *[Share in Christ's Divinity]*

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. God, for ever and ever.

**R/ Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading** *Is 52:7-10* **[Your God Is King]**

*The good news, the Gospel-the Lord comforts his  
people by announcing our salvation.*

A reading 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.*

**R/ Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 98** *[Sing a New Song]*  
**R./ All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

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.)**

**Second Reading** *Heb 1:1-6*

*[God Speaks through Jesus]*

*Now God speaks to us more clearly than ever before.  
His Son is with us-God is with us; we are his people.*

A reading 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, who is  
the refulgence of his 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.*

**R/ Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** *[Adore the Lord]* **STAND**

**R/ 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.

**R/ Alleluia, alleluia.**



**Gospel** *Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 [The True Light]*  
*The Word of God is the living Word. The Word became flesh and lives in our midst.*

**R/ The Lord be with you.**  
**R/ And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
**R/ 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.

[A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.]

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. [John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' "From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.]

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

**SIT**

**I believe in God**

**STAND**

**General Intercessions**

The shepherds rejoiced to hear the choir of angels sing. Glory to God in the highest. United in their joy, we glorify the Father by offering him our Christmas petitions:

*(Pause)*

For the Holy Father and the bishops who assist him: that their life, teaching, preaching, and pastoral care will proclaim the saving truth of the Incarnation to all. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, let your light shines on us.**

For those who govern: that true freedom and justice may reign; for lasting peace: that the coming of the Prince of Peace will put an end to all division in this world. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, let your light shines on us.**

For our Christian community: that the graces of Christmas will draw family members together in lasting bonds of love; and Christ like cares for the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, the forgotten and for the refugees. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, let your light shines on us.**

Lord Jesus, You are the head of the Church, we humbly seek Your providence of the St. Peter Canisius International Catholic Parish, the grace to respond to the universal call to holiness and to be the Light to the nations. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, let your light shines on us.**

We pray for those intentions offered for the Mass and for our personal intentions ...

*(Pause)*

Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, let your light shines on us.**

Loving Father, darkness is for ever changed because of the birth of the Eternal Light: our Lord Jesus Christ. Take all the darkness of our lives and replace it with the radiance of our newborn Saviour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Offertory hymn**

**SIT**

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Preparation of the Bread**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

*All : Blessed be God for ever.*

**Preparation of the Wine**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

*All : Blessed be God for ever.*

**Invitation To Prayer**

**STAND**

**Priest** : Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**People** : **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 [Reconciliation]**

**STAND**

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. **Amen.**

**Prayer over the Offerings [Reconciliation]**

**STAND**

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. **Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

**STAND**

*Introductory Dialogue*  
 The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just**

**Preface II Of The Nativity Of The Lord**

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, 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 all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts....**

**Eucharistic Prayer No. 1**

**KNEEL**

**Praise to the Father**

To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit**

that you accept and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices,

**Intercession for the Church**

which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant *N.* our Pope and *N.* our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

**Commemoration of the Living**

Remember, Lord, your servants *N.* and *N.* and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

**In Communion with the Saints**

Celebrating the most sacred night (day) on which blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Savior for this world, and in communion with

those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, ✠ and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs Peter and Paul, Andrew, (James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian) and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, order our days in your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit**

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit**

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Lord's Supper**

On the day before he was to suffer he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Do this in memory of me.**

**Memorial Acclamation**

*Priest* : The mystery of faith.

*All* : *When we eat this Bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

**The Memorial Prayer**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your