

**GOSPEL**

Lk 2: 16-21

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.***The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

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

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL****LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:***R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. 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. O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one

day we may rejoice in its completion.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.****THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.****PREFACE I OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY***After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**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.**

**THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace***LAMB OF GOD**

**All: 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.**

**INVITATION TO 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.

**R. 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** Heb 13: 8

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.****THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace.

**R. Thanks be to God.****BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

MAY THE LORD UNCOVER HIS FACE TO YOU AND BRING YOU PEACE. Pope Paul VI declared New Year's Day the World Day of Peace. It is appropriate because on this day we honour Mary who brought the Prince of Peace into the world. Better than anyone else, she knew the peace that is at once her Son's gift and the fruit of a life lived in obedience to God.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES****ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.**

*or* cf. Isa 9: 1, 5; 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: and his reign will be without end.**

**GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.****PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**R. Amen.****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.**

**COLLECT**

P. O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. 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**

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

**The word of the Lord.****R. Thanks be to God.****RESP PSALM**

Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

**R. May God bless us in his mercy.**

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**



3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Gal 4: 4-7

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

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

**The word of the Lord.****R. Thanks be to God****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Heb 1: 1-2

**Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!**