

The People's Mass

24 December 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Is 45:8)

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth
a Saviour.**

In the name of the Father, ... **Amen.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

A brief pause for silence follows.

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

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

You came to call sinners:

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

You are seated at the right hand of the Father
to intercede for us:

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

May almighty God have mercy on us, ... **Amen.**

The Gloria is not said.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING (2 Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14.16)

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord

will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever'.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88:2-5.27.29)

R I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim
your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as
the heavens. **R**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R**

SECOND READING (Rm 16:25-27)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Lk 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Lk 1:26-38)

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



A reading from the holy Gospel

according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(said on each occasion)

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,' the angel answered, 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith *(Nicene Creed)*

I believe in one God, / the Father almighty, / maker of heaven and earth, / of all things visible and invisible. / I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only Begotten Son of God, / born of the Father before all ages. / God from God, Light from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; / through him all things were made. / For us men and for our salvation / he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, / and became man. / For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, / he suffered death and was buried, / and rose again on the third day / 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. / I

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 adored and glorified, / who has spoken through the prophets. / I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Sanctus

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

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

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

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...

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.

Communion Antiphon

(Is 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.