

The Eucharist

2 January 2022 ✦ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



Today the Church calls us to reflect further on the implications of our Lord's birth. The external event was characterized by poverty but to the eyes of faith it was much more than the birth of a poor child. In this child, God's own Son began to exist as a human being. In other words, God began to relate to us as a human being and to love us with a human heart. As Scripture puts it: God's Word/Wisdom pitched its tent among us. This season, then, is the great commemoration of God's being with us.



"The Word was made flesh, he lived among us."

FIRST READING *(Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2. 8-12)*

The special presence of God's Wisdom among the Chosen People was the prelude to his presence as a human being for all nations.

SECOND READING *(Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18)*

God's desire to send his Son was not merely a panicky measure when the original plan went wrong. From eternity God harboured this generous gesture in his heart. The extent of this generosity is as mysterious as God himself.

GOSPEL *(John 1:1-18)*

St John differs from the other evangelists in that he wants to go beyond reporting and interpreting what Jesus said and did to affirming who and what he is: he is the Son or Word of God. As Thomas the Apostle put it: he is our Lord and God.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ws 18:14-15)

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.

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

Amen.

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

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

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

A brief pause for silence follows.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Amen.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Almighty ever-living God,
splendour of faithful souls,
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance
of your light.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

(Ecc1 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

(Eph 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 children, 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

(Cf. 1 Tim 3:16)

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

(Jn 1:1-18)

(For Shorter Form, read between ♦ ♦)



The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

♦ 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. ♦

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

♦ The Word was the true light
that enlightens all;
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.

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. ♦

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me

ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –

yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

♦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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
for by it you show us the way of truth
and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer III

(Preface III of the Nativity of the Lord)

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.

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 splendour:
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:

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.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,

and all you have created

rightly gives you praise,

for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,

you give life to all things and make them holy,

and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,

so that from the rising of the sun to its setting

a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:

by the same Spirit graciously make holy

these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,

that they may become the Body and ☩ Blood

of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed

he himself took bread,

and, 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,

and, 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.

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,

with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs (with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*) and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

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

Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

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

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,
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.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:

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

Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:

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.

**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

(Cf. Jn 1:12)

**To all who would accept him,
he gave the power to become children of God.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, we humbly ask you,
that, through the working of this mystery,
our offences may be cleansed
and our just desires fulfilled.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Personal Prayer

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, as we meet you in the breaking of bread this day. Help us to appreciate more your love for us and to perceive more clearly what you want us to do. Help us with your strong hand when our faith shakes and hovers on the brink of unbelief. Keep us in your presence when temptation troubles us and, at the end, lead us into your immediate presence and be for ever Emmanuel. Amen.