

St. Luke's Table

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

I bring you good news
of a great joy which will
come to all the people;
for to you is born this day
a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10–11



Birth of Christ, Duccio, di Buoninsegna, d. 1319

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary,
the Son of God, is born this night.

**God's Word has been made flesh among us.
The people who walk in darkness
have seen a great light.**

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,
on them a light shines.

You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

**His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

Opening Carol:

Once in Royal
David's City



Journey to Bethlehem, detail
Hugo van der Goes Uffizi Gallery Florence, Italy

Once in Royal David's City

**Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.**

**Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable
and his cradle was a stall
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy**

**Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven
set at God's right hand on high
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round**

O Holy God, we thank you that the time of waiting and preparation is ended and that the light of Christ shines forth tonight.

May our joy be full and our hearts rejoice!
As heaven and earth touch this very night,
may we be aware of the presence of
those we love but see no longer,
joining with us in this celebration
of your great love for us.

Let the mystery of this night surround us,
the light of faith illumine our hearts. **Amen.**

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**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**

(repeated three times)

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
Have mercy upon us.**

**Eternal God, this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known the revelation
of that light on earth, bring us to see
the splendor of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:
ISAIAH 9: 2-7



The Grotto of the Nativity

Psalm 96: (alternating verses)

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

**We worship you, God of glory,
in the beauty of holiness,
and we joyfully proclaim your just
and righteous rule,
established for all,
through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen**

Second Reading:

TITUS 2: 11-14



Joy to the World, the Lord is Come -- Illustration from
Dem. Republic of Congo

Gradual Hymn:
Holy Child Within the Manger
(Performed by the Choir)

The Holy Gospel of
Saint Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
is proclaimed in Word
and Music



Gospel of Luke 2: 1-7; then,

The CHOIR sings:

There were Angels Hovering Round

Gospel of Luke 2: 8-14; then,

The CHOIR sings:

On to Bethlehem Town

Gospel of Luke 2: 15-20; then,

The CHOIR sings:

That's What it Takes to Make a King



No Room in the Inn -- Peter Busch, Sand sculpture,
Canary Islands, Spain

Sermon



Holy Family

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten, of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death
and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy
Catholic and Apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people
of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs:

For the increase of peace among nations,
let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, bring peace on earth.

For the spread of the joyful news
that the Saviour has come,
let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, bring joy to the world.

For the poor and those who find no room,
let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, bring help to the poor.

For renewal of the whole church in unity,
let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, bring renewal to the church.

For the light of Christmas to shine on us all.
Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Dear Friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love
and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners
and invites us to the table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,
**We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The PEACE of the Lord
be always with you.
And also with you.



Mary and Jesus -- JESUS MAFA, Cameroon

Offertory Carol

Joy to the World



Holy Family, Murillo, Bartolomé Esteban, 1617-1682

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come
let earth receive the King
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing
and heaven and nature sing
and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns
let us glad songs employ
while fields and floods
rocks hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy**

**No more let wrongs and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found
far as our sin is found
far as our sin is found**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love
and wonders of his love
and wonders of his love**

Prayer over the Gifts

**Source of light and gladness,
accept all we offer you
on this joyful feast.**

**May we grow up in him
who unites our lives to yours;
for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebration of the Eucharist

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who in the mystery of his incarnation
was made perfect man,
of the flesh of the Virgin Mary, his mother.
In him we see a new and radiant
vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven,
we lift our voices and sing
our joyful hymn of praise
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
to be Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him you have delivered us from evil
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you brought us out of terror into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and to death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood
of the new covenant, which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ and his blood
of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son
in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable to him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new, and bring us
to that city of light where you dwell
with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom and with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to pray

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

The Gifts of God
for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Music During Communion:

New Star Shining
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Rise Up Shepherd and Follow



Journey to Bethlehem

Prayer After Communion

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature.

May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom.

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Doxology

Glory to God

**whose power working in us
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation
in the church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn
Silent Night



Starry Night, Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890

Closing Carol: Silent Night

Silent Night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

**Silent Night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth**



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