

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

Good Evening and Welcome!

Parish of St. Luke's
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Gathering of the Community

Lighting of the Christ Candle



Chartres Cathedral; Virgin Mary,
infant Christ; tympanum,
right portal, west facade

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 Hymn:

Once in Royal
David's City



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

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

ISAIAH 9: 2-7

9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

9:3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

9:4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

9:5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

9:6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

9:7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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.**

Second Reading:

TITUS 2: 11-14



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

TITUS 2: 11-14

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

2:12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2:14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Good News

The Gospel of Christ
according to
SAINT LUKE 2: 1-14 (15-20)



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

Reflection on the Creche:
How Far Is It To Bethlehem
Away in a Manager
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Blessing of the Creche:

Loving God, we come before you

In wonder and awe.

We thank you for the miracle of Jesus' birth.

**Bless this scene we have prepared
and let it remind us that Jesus is with us always.**

Amen.

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

What Child is This



Holy Family, Murillo, Bartolomé Esteban, 1617-1682

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

Acknowledgement of Sources:

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Art Images:

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