

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 12

Response:

**Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the
peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.
I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:
the Lord is very near. There is no need to

worry; but if there is anything you need,
pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and
thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which
is so much greater than we can understand,
will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in
Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

When all the people asked John, "What must
we do?" he answered, "If anyone has two
tunics he must share with the man who has
none, and the one with something to eat
must do the same." There were tax collectors
too who came for baptism, and these said to
him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to
them, "Exact no more than your rate." Some
soldiers asked him in their turn, "What about
us? What must we do?" He said to them, "No
intimidation! No extortion! Be content with
your pay!"

A feeling of expectancy had grown among
the people, who were beginning to think that
John might be the Christ, so John declared
before them all, "I baptise you with water, but
someone is coming, someone who is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo
the strap of his sandals: he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-
fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the
chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go
out." As well as this, there were many other
things he said to exhort the people and to
announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**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,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**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.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we
pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred
mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving
work.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of
our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.