

December 25  
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
1<sup>st</sup> Mass – At Midnight

*Station at St Mary Major, at the Crib*

*White*

*1 Cl. (Duplex 1 Cl.)*

INTROIT: *Ps. 2:7*

Dominus dixit ad me : Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. *Ps. ibid. 1: Quare fremunt gentes : et populi meditati sunt inania? V. Gloria.*

*The Lord said to me : Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ps. ibid. 1: Why have the Gentiles raged : and the people devised vain things? V. Gloria.*

COLLECT

Deus, qui hanc sacratissimam noctem veri luminis fecisti illustratione clarescere : da, quæsumus, ut cujus lucis mysteria in terra cognovimus, ejus quoque gaudiis in cælo perfruamur. Qui tecum vivit et regnat.

*O God, who hast made this most sacred night to shine with the brightness of the true light : grant, we beseech thee, that we who have known the mystery of his light upon earth, may enjoy also his happiness in heaven. Who liveth and reigneth.*

EPISTLE: *Tit. 2:11-15*

Lectio Epistolæ beati Pauli Apostoli ad Titum.

*A lesson from the Epistle of St Paul the Apostle to Titus.*

Carissime : Apparuit gratia Dei Salvatoris nostri omnibus hominibus, erudiens nos, ut abnegantes impietatem et sæcularia desideria, sobrie, et juste, et pie vivamus in hoc sæculo, expectantes beatam spem, et adventum gloriæ magni Dei et Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi : qui dedit semetipsum pro nobis : ut nos redimeret ab omni iniquitate, et mundaret sibi populum acceptabilem, sectatorem bonorum operum. Hæc loquere et exhortare in Christo Jesu Domino nostro.

*Dearly beloved: The grace of God our Saviour hath appeared to all men, instructing us, that denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, and justly, and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and might cleanse to himself a people acceptable, a pursuer of good works. These things speak and exhort in Christ Jesu our Lord.*

GRADUAL: *Ps. 109:3, 1*

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuæ in splendoribus sanctorum : ex utero ante luciferum genui te. V. Dixit Dominus Domino meo : Sede a dextris meis : donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

*With thee is the principality in the day of thy strength, in the brightness of the saints : from the womb before the day-star I begot thee. V. The Lord said to my Lord : sit thou at my right hand : until I make thy enemies thy footstool.*

## ALLELUIA: Ps. 2:7

Dominus dixit ad me : Filius meus es tu, ego  
hodie genui te. *The Lord said to me : Thou art my Son, this day  
have I begotten thee.*

*ad libitum:* SEQUENCE

Nato canunt omnia Domino pie agmina,  
Syllabatim pneumata, perstringendo organica,  
*May all crowds piously sing to the new-born God,  
The breathing voices with syllables, the instruments  
with strumming.*

Hæc dies sacrata, in qua nova gaudia mundo  
sunt edita,  
Hac nocte præcelsa intonuit et 'Gloria' in voce  
angelica. *This is the hallowed day, on which new joys come  
forth to the world,  
In this most excellent night the 'Gloria' sounded in  
the voice of the Angels.*

Fulserunt et immania nocte media pastoribus  
lumina.  
Dum fovent sua pecora subito diva percipiunt  
monita. *And in the middle of the night vast lights shone to  
the shepherds,  
Whilst tending their sheep they suddenly received  
divine instruction:*

Natus alma Virgine qui extat ante sæcula;  
Et immensa in cælo gloria, pax in terra. *Born from a kind Virgin is he who was before the  
ages,  
And in heaven is unmeasurable glory, on earth peace.*

Sic ergo cæli caterva altissime jubilat, / et tanto  
canore tremat alta poli machina. / Sonet et  
per omnia hac in die 'Gloria' voce clara  
reddita. *Thus rejoiceth the heavenly crowd, / and the high  
fabric of heaven trembles under such great singing.  
/ May the 'Gloria' sound this day through every-  
thing, proclaimed with a strong voice.*

Humana concrepent cuncta Deum natum in  
terra. / Confracta sunt imperia hostis crude-  
lissima, / pax in terra reddita, nunc lætentur  
omnia Nati per exordia. *May all that are human together make a noise for  
God born on earth. / Broken are the most cruel  
empires of the enemy, / peace on earth is brought  
back, now all shall rejoice through the birth of the  
Son.*

Solus, qui tuetur omnia,  
Solus qui condidit omnia, *He, who is the only one who seeth everything,  
He, who is the only one who hath made everything,*

Ipse sua pietate solvat omnia peccata nostra. *Through his mercy may he loosen all our sins.*

## GOSPEL: Lk. 2:1-14

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Lucam. *Continuation of the holy Gospel according to  
St Luke.*

In illo tempore : Exiit edictum a Cæsare Augus-  
to, ut describeretur universus orbis. Hæc  
descriptio prima facta est a præside Syriæ  
Cyrino, et ibant omnes ut profiterentur singuli  
in suam civitatem. Ascendit autem et Joseph a  
Galilæa de civitate Nazareth in Judæam, in  
civitatem David, quæ vocatur Bethlehem : eo  
*At that time: There went out a decree from Cesar  
Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled.  
This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the gover-  
nor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, every one  
into his own city. And Joseph also went up from  
Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the  
city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he*

quod esset de domo et familia David, ut profiteretur cum Maria desponsata sibi uxore prægnante. Factum est autem, cum essent ibi, impleti sunt dies ut pareret. Et peperit Filium suum primogenitum : et pannis eum involvit, et reclinavit eum in præsepio : quia non erat eis locus in diversorio. Et pastores erant in regione eadem vigilantes, et custodientes vigiliis noctis super gregem suum. Et ecce Angelus Domini stetit juxta illos, et claritas Dei circumfulsit illos, et timuerunt timore magno. Et dixit illis Angelus : Nolite timere : ecce enim evangelizo vobis gaudium magnum, quod erit omni populo : quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator, qui est Christus Dominus, in civitate David. Et hoc vobis signum : Invenietis infantem pannis involutum, et positum in præsepio. Et subito facta est cum Angelo multitudo militiæ cælestis, laudantium Deum, et dicentium : Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

*was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold, an Angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the Angel said to them: Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people; for this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.*

OFFERTORY: Ps. 95:11, 13, 1, 2

Lætentur cæli, et exsultet terra \*ante faciem Domini, quoniam venit. V Cantate Domino canticum novum : cantate Domino omnis terra. \*Ante. V Cantate Domino : benedicite nomen ejus : bene nuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus. \*Ante.

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad \*before the face of the Lord, because he cometh. V Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle : sing to the Lord, all the earth. \*Before the face. V Sing ye to the Lord and bless his name : shew well forth his salvation from day to day. \*Before.*

SECRET

Accepta tibi sit, Domine, quæsumus, hodiernæ festivitatis oblatio : ut, tua gratia largiente, per hæc sacrosancta commercia, in illius inveniamur forma : in quo tecum est nostra substantia. Qui tecum vivit.

*May the offering of this festival be pleasing to thee, O Lord, we beseech thee : that by thy grace, through this sacred intercourse, we may be found like unto him in whom our nature is united to thee. Who liveth.*

PREFACE

*Of Christmas*

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique, gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus. Quia per incarnati Verbi mysterium, nova mentis nostræ oculis lux tuæ claritatis infulsit : ut dum visibiliter Deum cognoscimus, per hunc in invisibilium amorem rapiamur. Et ideo cum

*It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, that we should always, and in all places, give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God. For by the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the light of thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind : so that while we acknowledge him as God seen by men, we may be drawn by him to the love of things unseen.*

Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis exercitus, hymnum gloriæ tuæ canimus, sine fine dicentes :

*And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to thy glory, evermore saying:*

*Tonight, the COMMUNICANTES of the CANON begins as follows*

Communicantes, et noctem sacratissimam celebrantes, qua beatæ Mariæ intemerata virginitas huic mundo edidit Salvatorem : sed et memoriam venerantes, in primis ejusdem gloriosæ semper Virginis Mariæ, Genitricis ejusdem Dei et Domini nostri Jesu Christi ...

*Communicating, and keeping that most holy night, in which the spotless virginity of the blessed Mary brought forth a Saviour to this world; and also venerating the memory, first of the same glorious Mary, ever a Virgin, Mother of the same our God and Lord Jesus Christ ...*

COMMUNION: Ps. 109:3

In splendoribus sanctorum ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

*In the brightness of the saints, from the womb before the day-star I begot thee.*

POST-COMMUNION

Da nobis, quæsumus, Domine Deus noster : ut qui nativitatem Domini nostri Jesu Christi mysteriis nos frequentare gaudemus, dignis conversationibus ad ejus mereamur pervenire consortium. Qui tecum vivit et regnat.

*Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, our God, that we, who rejoice to celebrate by these mysteries the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, may deserve by worthy conversation to attain unto fellowship with him. Who liveth and reigneth.*

*In Pre-Reformation England the following chant, based on Is. 9:2, 6-7, was sung before the Epistle by two cantors alternating.*

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|---|--|
| <p>Laudes Deo dicam per sæcula, qui me<br/>plasmavit in manu dextera, atque redemit<br/>cruce purpurea sanguine Nati.</p>   | <p><i>I shall give forever praise to God, who hath created<br/>me with his right hand, and redeemed me with the<br/>cross, reddened by the blood of his Son.</i></p>   |
| <p><i>Lectio Isaiaë Prophetæ</i> (in qua Christi lucida vati-<br/>cinatur nativitas).</p>   | <p>A lesson from the Prophet Isaias (<i>in which<br/>Christ's shining birth is prophesied</i>).</p>  |
| <p><i>Hæc dicit Dominus</i> (Pater, Filius, Sanctus Spiritus,<br/>in quo sunt omnia condita, superna atque<br/>ima) :</p>   | <p>Thus saith the Lord (<i>Father, Son and Holy<br/>Ghost, in whom everything is founded, the highest<br/>and the lowest</i>):</p>   |
| <p><i>Populus gentium qui ambulabat in tenebris</i> (quem<br/>creasti : quem fraude subdola hostis expulit<br/>paradiso : et captivatum secum traxit ad<br/>tartara) <i>vidit lucem magnam</i> (fulserunt et<br/>immania nocte media pastoribus lumina).</p>  | <p>The people of the heathen that walked in<br/>darkness (<i>whom thou hast created, whom<br/>through fraud and lies the enemy had expelled<br/>from Paradise, and brought with him as a<br/>prisoner into hell</i>) have seen a great light (<i>and<br/>in the middle of the night, vast lights shone to the<br/>shepherds</i>).</p>  |
| <p><i>Habitantibus in regione umbræ mortis lux</i> (sempi-<br/>terna, et redemptio vere nostra) <i>orta est eis</i><br/>(O stupenda nativitas!).</p>  | <p>To them that dwelt in the region of death,<br/>light (<i>everlasting, and truly our redemption</i>) is<br/>risen (<i>O stupendous birth!</i>).</p>  |
| <p><i>Parvulus enim natus est nobis</i> (magnus hic erit<br/>Jesus Filius Dei), et <i>Filius</i> (Patris summi)<br/><i>datus est nobis</i> (ab arce summa prædictum sic<br/>erat).</p>  | <p>For a child is born to us (<i>he will be great, Jesus,<br/>the Son of God</i>), and a Son (<i>of the most high<br/>Father</i>) is given to us (<i>it was thus predicted<br/>from the highest pinnacle</i>).</p>   |
| <p><i>Et factus est principatus sub humerum ejus</i> (ut cælos<br/>regat atque arva).</p>   | <p>And the government is upon his shoulder<br/>(<i>that he govern the heavens and the fields</i>).</p>   |
| <p><i>Et vocabitur nomen ejus</i> : Messias, Soter, Em-<br/>manuel, Sabaoth, Adonai, <i>Admirabilis</i>, Radix<br/>David, <i>Consiliarius</i> Dei Patris, <i>Deus</i> (qui crea-<br/>vit omnia), <i>Fortis</i> (Barathri claustra perimens<br/>teterima), <i>Pater futuri sæculi</i> (Rex omnipotens<br/>et cuncta regens), <i>princeps pacis</i> (hic et in<br/>ævum).</p> | <p>And his name shall be called: (<i>Messiah,<br/>Redeemer, God-With-Us, Lord-of-Hosts, Our<br/>Lord</i>), Wonderful, <i>the Root of David</i>, Coun-<br/>sellor of God the Father, God (<i>who created eve-<br/>rything</i>), the mighty (<i>destroying the most hide-<br/>ous gates of hell</i>), the Father of the world to<br/>come (<i>the almighty King, governing everything</i>),<br/>the prince of peace (<i>here and forever</i>).</p> |
| <p><i>Multiplicabitur ejus imperium</i> (in Jerusalem, Judæa,<br/>sive Samaria), et <i>pacis non erit finis</i> (per sæcula<br/>sempiterna).</p>  | <p>His empire shall be multiplied (<i>in Jerusalem,<br/>Judea and Samaria</i>), and there shall be no<br/>end of peace (<i>through ages everlasting</i>).</p>  |

*Super solium David, et super regnum ejus sedebit (et regni meta sui non erit aliqua), et confirmet illud (in fidei pignore), et corroboret in iudicio et justitia (iudex cum venerit iudicare sæculum), amodo (illi debetur gloria, laus et jubilatio.) et usque in sæculum.*

Ab ortu solis usque occiduos, ad fines mundi orbis per climata, laus Creatori resonet congrua. Amen dicant omnia.

He shall sit upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom (*and there shall be no limits to his power*), to establish it (*through the promise of Faith*) and strengthen it with judgment and with justice (*when he cometh as a judge to judge the world*), from henceforth (*do we owe him glory, praise and rejoicing*) and for ever.

*From the rising of the sun unto the setting of the same, through all regions to the ends of the earth, shall fitting praise sound to the Creator. All shall now say Amen.*