

ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN
ST ALBANS
2020



9.00am MASS CHRISTMAS MORNING

Opening Hymn

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the
silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Kyrie

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

Christe, Christe eleison
Christe, Christe eleison

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

Gloria

Angels we have heard in heaven
Sweetly singing o'er our plains
And the mountain tops in answer
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Isaiah 62: 11-12)

This the Lord proclaims
to the ends of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,
your saviour comes,
the prize of his victory with him,
his trophies before him.'
They shall be called 'The Holy People',
'the Lord's Redeemed.'
And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',
'City-not-forsaken.'
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

Second Reading (Titus 3: 4-7)

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gospel (Luke 2:15-20)

When the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

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 kneel down)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

(Please pause)

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 of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gift

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Priest Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R 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 Gifts

Preface & Holy Holy

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And with your spirit.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right and just.....**

**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.**

The Mystery of Faith
Save us Saviour of the World
For by your cross and resurrection
You have set us free

COMMUNION RITE

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, **Lamb of God**
you take away, **you take away**
the sins of all, **the sins of all**
the world, **the world**
Miserere nobis, **Miserere nobis**

Lamb of God, **Lamb of God**
you take away, **you take away**
the sins of all, **the sins of all**
the world, **the world**
Miserere nobis, **Miserere nobis**

Lamb of God, **Lamb of God**
you take away, **you take away**
the sins of all, **the sins of all**
the world, **the world**
Dona nobis Pacem, **Dona nobis Pacem**

Holy Communion

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

CONCLUDING RITE

Concluding Prayer

Solemn Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And with your Spirit.**

Priest Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing

Priest When he came to us as man,
the Son of God scattered the
darkness of this world, and
filled this holy night with his
glory. May the God of
infinite goodness scatter the
darkness of sin and brighten
your hearts with holiness.

All **Amen**

Priest God sent his angels to shepherds
to herald the great joy at our Saviour's birth.
May he fill you with joy
and make you heralds of his Gospel.

All **Amen.**

Priest When the Word became man,
earth was joined to heaven.
May he give you his peace and goodwill,
and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

All **Amen.**

Priest May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Priest Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Final Hymn

'Hark!' the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled'.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
'Hark!' the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Christ, by highest heaven adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
'Hark!' the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Hail! The heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail! The Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
'Hark!' the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'

*With our thanks for your many kindnesses and gifts, and with all the good wishes
for a blessed Christmas and New Year.*

Father Michael, Father Julian, and Deacon Steve

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