

The Theme of Today's Liturgy

Today, a holy day dawns, and all nations worship the Lord because a great light has descended upon the earth. When He first came, the Angels sang, "Unto you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord." And so the Church sings, "Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given" (*Introit*). To this the Lord Himself responds, "Behold, it is I" (*Old Testament*). He is the Son of the Father, the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (*Epistle*). Through Him all things were made; and in His is Life – the Life which is the light of men (*Gospel*). He is also the "Word made flesh" so that we might be born of God (*Gospel*). Our prayer, then, is that the Son of the Father, born this day the Savior of the world and made author of our heavenly birth, may bestow on us the gift of everlasting life. (*Post-Collect*).

Introit

Psalm 98:1a. Antiphon: Isaiah 9:6a



P For unto us a | Child is born, *
Unto us a Son is | given.

C Oh, sing to the LORD a | new song! *
For He has done | marvelous things.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For unto us a | Child is born, *
Unto us a Son is | given.

Collect of the Day

Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free, who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:6-10

Thus says the LORD God: "My people shall know My name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.' " How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the LORD brings back Zion. Break forth into joy,

sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 145:18, 21a

P The Lord is near to all who call up- | on Him, *
to all who call upon | Him in truth.

C My mouth shall speak the praise | of the LORD, *
and all flesh shall bless His holy Name forever and | ever.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

Brethren: God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

382, *We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth*

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↑ - Please stand • ↓ - Please sit

This Week's Psalm

This week's Psalm is Psalm 93.

This Psalm reminds us that the Lord wrapped in swaddling clothes (rags and diapers) is the same Lord robed and clothed in strength and majesty. He is the One through Whom all things were made, and who the whole earth must answer to. He is mightier than anything in all creation. Yet, more sure than all of that, is His Word and promise (v 5) that He will come and save us. And because of this, we are also clothed – in the holiest He gives us by virtue of His birth.

Prayer

O Lord Almighty, Jesus Christ, who, clothed with the Father's strength, set heaven, sea, and earth in their places, hear Your humble servants, give us faith in Your testimonies, and clothe us with strength and beautiful holiness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Holy Gospel Reading

St. John 1:1-14

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.
- C** (🎵) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** (🎵) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

✠ Thursday 25 December Anno ✠ Domini 2025 ✠



The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

– John 1:14

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