

THE CATHOLIC MASS SHEET

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

4th Sunday of Advent (A)

21st December 2025

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon or a hymn Stand

Cf. Is 45:8

**Drop down the dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth
a Saviour.**

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The Priest greets everyone present.

*The people respond: And with your spirit.
The Mass of the day may be introduced.*

Penitential Act

*The Priest invites the people to repentance
using one of the Penitential Acts.*

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

The Priest says the absolution. All reply:

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R. cf. 7c, 10b

R. Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm

R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

R.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

R.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation before the Gospel Stand

Alleluia. Matthew 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which means, God with us.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' – which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Sit

The Nicene Creed

Stand

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,
and by the Holy Spirit

All bow

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.

Or:

The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the All bow
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Response example: Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

After the concluding prayer all say: Amen. Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The offerings are brought to the altar.
A hymn may be sung. If the Priest says the two
prayers of offering aloud, the response both
times is:*

Blessed be God for ever.

The people rise as the Priest says:

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

The people reply:

**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 Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

*The Priest continues with the Preface and
concludes with the people, singing or saying aloud:*

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.

Kneel

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until the
Priest says:*

The mystery of faith.

*And the people continue, acclaiming one of the
following:*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Or:

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Or:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer
saying alone:*

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

The people acclaim: Amen.

The Communion Rite*Stand*

The Priest invites all to join in the Lord's Prayer:
**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.**

The Priest continues alone:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
 graciously grant peace in our days,
 that, by the help of your mercy,
 we may be always free from sin
 and safe from all distress,
 as we await the blessed hope
 and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
**For the kingdom,
 the power and the glory are yours
 now and for ever.**

The Priest says:

Lord Jesus Christ,
 who said to your Apostles:
 Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
 look not on our sins,
 but on the faith of your Church,
 and graciously grant her peace and unity
 in accordance with your will.
 Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**
 The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
The Priest takes the host and breaks it.
Meanwhile the people say or sing:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 grant us peace.** *Kneel*

The Priest shows the host to the people and says:
**Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

Lord, I am not worthy**that you should enter under my roof,
 but only say the word
 and my soul shall be healed.***The Priest or other minister says to each
 communicant:***The Body [Blood] of Christ.***Each communicant answers: **Amen.*****Communion Antiphon***Is 7:14***Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
 and his name will be called Emmanuel.****Prayer after Communion***Stand*

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
 we pray, almighty God,
 that, as the feast day of our salvation draws
 ever nearer,
 so we may press forward all the more eagerly
 to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your
 Son's Nativity.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.**THE CONCLUDING RITES***Announcements may be made.**Then:*

Priest: **The Lord be with you.**
All: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,
 the Father, and the Son,  and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended. *Or:*
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. *Or:*
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. *Or:*
Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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