

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ex 16: 6-7
 Today you will know that the Lord will come,
 and he will save us,
 and in the morning you will see his glory.

GREETING
 In the name of the Father, *Amen.*
 The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit*

PENITENTIAL ACT
 You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
 Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

You came to call sinners:
 Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

You are seated at the right hand of the Father
 to intercede for us:
 Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,...

THE GLORIA
 Glory to God in the highest,
 and on earth peace to people of good will.
 We praise you, we bless you,
 we adore you, we glorify you,
 we give you thanks for your great glory,
 Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
 Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
 you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER
 O God, who gladden us year by year
 as we wait in hope for our redemption,
 grant that, just as we joyfully welcome
 your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,
 we may also merit to face him confidently
 when he comes again as our Judge.
 Who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
FIRST READING Isaiah 62:1-5
A reading from the book of Isaiah
 About Zion I will not be silent,
 about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
 until her integrity shines out like the dawn
 and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity
 all the kings your glory,
 and you will be called by a new name,
 one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
 You are to be a crown of splendour
 in the hand of the Lord,
 a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
 no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
 nor your land 'Abandoned',
 but you shall be called 'My Delight'
 and your land 'The Wedded';
 for the Lord takes delight in you
 and your land will have its wedding.
 Like a young man marrying a virgin,
 so will the one who built you wed you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
 so will your God rejoice in you. **The word of the Lord.**
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 88(89):4-5,16-17,27,29
(R) I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages.' *(R)*

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
 who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
 who find their joy every day in your name,
 who make your justice the source of their bliss. *(R)*
 'He will say to me: "You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me."
 I will keep my love for him always;
 with him my covenant shall endure.' *(R)*

SECOND READING Acts 13:16-17,22-25
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
 When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the
 synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:
 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our
 nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people
 great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then
 by divine power he led them out.
 "Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in
 these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man
 after my own heart, who will carry out my whole pur-
 pose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel
 one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose com-
 ing was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism
 of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John
 ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine
 me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to
 undo his sandal."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world
 and the saviour of the world will be our king.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25
 The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother
 Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to
 live together she was found to be with child through the
 Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour
 and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her
 informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the
 angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home
 as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by
 the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must
 name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his
 people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the
 words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they
 will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-
 with-us.'

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord
 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and,
 though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave
 birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

THE 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 bow
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.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
Prayer over the Offerings

As we look forward, O Lord,
 to the coming festivities,
 may we serve you all the more eagerly
 for knowing that in them
 you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.
 Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith:
 We proclaim your death, O Lord,
 and profess your Resurrection
 until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Is 40: 5
 The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
 and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
 that we may draw new vigour
 from celebrating the Nativity
 of your Only Begotten Son,
 by whose heavenly mystery
 we receive both food and drink.
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

P: The Lord be with you. *All: And with your spirit.*
P: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the
 Son, + and the Holy Spirit. *All: Amen.*
P: Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All: Thanks be to God.