



MIDNIGHT MASS - CHRISTMAS 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

CAROL

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and mean and lowly
 lived on earth our Saviour holy.

- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
 he would honour and obey,
 love and watch the lowly Maiden,
 in whose gentle arms he lay:
 Christian children all must be
 mild, obedient, good as he.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him ; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high ;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895) Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 81.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GLORIA

We stand and say

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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.**

THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us,
who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING – Isaiah 52:7-10

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL

- 1 See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years!
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
- 2 Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!
- 3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

- 4 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"
told us of a Saviour's birth.'
- 5 Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Edward Caswall (1814–1878)* Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 83

GOSPEL READING – John 1:1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
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.
We 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 worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

WE SHARE THE PEACE

This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

CAROL

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Angels and archangels
 may have gathered there,
 cherubim and seraphim
 thronged the air ;
 but his mother only,
 in her maiden bliss,
 worshipped the belovèd
 with a kiss.
- 4 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.

We remain standing

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic prayer continues until:

... we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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 Eucharistic Prayer continues until:

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with **Amen.**

We sit or kneel and keep a moment's silence

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Christ is the true bread which has come down
from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord**

**whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean
by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious
blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him
and he in us. Amen.**

The ministers receive communion. Please remain in your place and the ministers will distribute communion, in the form of bread only. You are welcome to receive communion if you do so in your own church. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your hands folded in front of you and bow your head.

CAROL DURING COMMUNION

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
 holy infant so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace;
 sleep in heavenly peace!
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
 Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born!'
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
 with the dawn of saving grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

FINAL CAROL

1 O come, all ye faithful,
 joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 come and behold him
 born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,
 Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 very God,
 begotten, not created:

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above ;
glory to God
in the highest :

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given ;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing :

Adeste, fideles, (Latin, 18th century) translated by Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 78

BLESSING

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing...

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

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