

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*When a profound silence covered all things  
and night was in the middle of its course,  
your all-powerful Word, O Lord,  
bounded from heaven's royal throne.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
splendour of faithful souls,  
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory,  
and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

FIRST READING Sirach 24:1-2. 8-12

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Wisdom will praise herself  
and will boast in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she will open her mouth,  
and in the presence of his forces she will boast:  
'Then the Creator of all things commanded me,  
and the one who created me gave my tent a resting place.  
And he said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob  
and in Israel receive your inheritance."  
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for eternity I shall not cease to exist.  
In the holy tabernacle I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Sion.  
In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting place,  
and in Jerusalem was my dominion.  
So I took root in an honoured people,  
in the portion of the Lord, his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147:12-13. 14-15. 19-20.

R. John 1:14

**R: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

Or **Alleluia.**

1. O Jerusalem, glorify the LORD!  
O Sion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you. **R.**
2. He established peace on your borders;  
he gives you your fill of finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth,  
and swiftly runs his command. **R.**
3. He reveals his word to Jacob;  
to Israel, his decrees and judgements.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his judgements. **R.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give

thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. 1 Timothy 3:16

**R: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.

Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.

**R: Alleluia.**

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
(for shorter form read between ><)

> 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 was not any thing made that was made. In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 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 have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. <

John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make  
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,  
for by it you show us the way of truth  
and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*To all who would accept him,  
he gave the power to become children of God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, we humbly ask you,  
that, through the working of this mystery,  
our offences may be cleansed  
and our just desires fulfilled.

Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*