

Feast of the Holy Family

26th December 2021



OPENING HYMN

In the bleak midwinter 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 midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
But only His mother in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

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.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14
He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

PSALM RESPONSE: **O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21
Family life in the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52
Jesus is found by His parents sitting among the doctors.

NICENE 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, (*as we say the words in italics, we 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all,
How can I love Thee as I ought?
And how revere this wond'rous gift,
So far surpassing hope or thought?

*Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore.
O make us love Thee more and more!*

Had I but Mary's sinless heart,
To love Thee with, my dearest King;
O with what bursts of fervent praise,
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing!

Ah see! Within a creature's hand
The vast Creator deigns to be,
Reposing, infant-like as though
On Joseph's arm or Mary's knee.

Thy Body, Soul, and Godhead all!
O mystery of love divine!
I cannot compass all I have,
For all Thou hast and art are mine.

Sound, sound His praises higher still,
And come, ye angels, to our aid!
'Tis God, 'tis God, the very God
Whose power both men and angels made.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

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.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

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.