

The Nativity of our Lord

December 24, 2020



*“Christmas is not an event within history
but is rather the invasion of time by eternity.”*

Hans Urs Von Balthasar

Prelude: Angels, We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

[Refrain]: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Prelude: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter when half-gone was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior when half-gone was the night.*

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and lightens every load.*

Prelude: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus look down from the sky, and stay by my side 'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask you to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care, and fit us for Heaven to live with you there.

Prelude: O Thou, That Tellest Good Tidings of Zion

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid; Say unto the cities of Judah:
Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, begotten, not created.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



Gloria

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will.

We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You.

We give You thanks for Your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father:

you Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

You Who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy. You alone are the Lord. You alone, O Jesus Christ, are most high.

with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Reading 1: Isaiah 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Responsorial: Psalm 89



For ev - er I will sing — the good-ness of the Lord.

*Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.*

*Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.*

*Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.*

*They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.*

Reading 2: 2 Titus 2:11-14

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.



Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” a son, and he named him Jesus.



Offertory Hymn: Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



Communion Antiphon

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see the salvation that comes from our God.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul.

**Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there,
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

Communion Hymn: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright.
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

O HOLY NIGHT
CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!



Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Communion Meditation: O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to men on earth*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given,
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.*

Communion Meditation: Sussex Carol

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth. News of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be so sad? Since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin he set us free all for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King.*



***“Every mother, when she picks up the young life
that has been born to her, looks up to the heavens to thank
God for the gift which made the world young again.
But here was a mother, a Madonna, who did not look up. She
looked down to Heaven, for this was Heaven in her arms.”***

- Archbishop Fulton Sheen