



# **CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS**



***The Angels appear  
to the Shepherds***



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*When the ministers have entered, the following hymn is sung,*

*ALL KNEELING.*

AHB 236

- 1 **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.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
  
- 2 **Silent** night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!'  
Christ, the Saviour is born.  
Christ, the Saviour is born.
  
- 3 **Silent** night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend your light;  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, our Saviour is born.  
Christ, our Saviour is born.

Joseph Mohr 1792–1848  
*tr.* John F. Young 1820–85 *alt.*

*STAND*

*The priest takes the figure of the Christ Child from the altar.*

**Processional Hymn**                      NEH 30

Let us proceed in peace.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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

*When the procession reaches the Crib, the figure of the Christ Child is placed there, and the Crib is blessed.*

3 **See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
    *O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

4 **Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?  
    *O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

5 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:  
    *O come let us adore him,*  
    *O come let us adore him,*  
    *O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
    *O come let us adore him,*  
    *O come let us adore him,*  
    *O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Latin 18th century  
*Tr Frederick Oakley 1802–80 and others*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*These acts of prayer and penitence prepare us as a worshipping community to hear God's Word, to offer the Holy Sacrifice, and to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Priest may introduce the Liturgy.*

## PENITENTIAL RITE

*This prayer of preparation may be said.*

**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.**

*The Deacon invites the people to recall their sins, then there is a short silence for reflection.*

## **REMAIN STANDING**

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest pronounces the Absolution.*

## **KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy.      **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.    **Christ have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.      **Lord have mercy.**

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*This ancient hymn of praise is sung:*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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 OPENING PRAYER**

*The Priest says 'Let us pray'. After a pause for silent prayer he says the Opening Prayer, to which all respond: **Amen.***

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

*The proclamation of God's Word is always centred on Christ. Old Testament writings prepare the way for him; New Testament books speak of him directly. All Scripture calls us to believe afresh and respond in our lives.*

## **THE FIRST READING**

*SIT*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 9: 1–7*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Median. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 95: 1–3; 11–13; R. Lk 2: 2–11*

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

- 2 Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among the peoples.

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

- 3 Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

- 4 With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

## THE SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to Titus.

*Titus 2: 11–14*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

STAND

Sequence Hymn

NEH 29

- 1 IT came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
  
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.
  
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!
  
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

Edmund Sears 1810–76

## THE ALLELUIA VERSE

### REMAIN STANDING

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Lk 2: 1–14*

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census—the first—took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together 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 a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

### SIT

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### STAND

**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,**

*(Please kneel briefly)*

***was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.***

*(Please stand)*

**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.****

## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### REMAIN STANDING

*As a priestly people we pray together for needs of the Church and the world.*

*After each petition:*

Lord in your mercy,     *or*     Lord, hear our prayer, hear our prayer  
    **Hear our prayer.**            **Lord, hear our prayer, hear our prayer**

*At the conclusion:*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.  
    **Grant that what we have asked in faith**  
    **we may by your grace receive,**  
    **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

*We prepare to participate in the Eucharistic meal by expressing the unity we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

We are the Body of Christ.  
    **His Spirit is with us.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
    **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange the greeting of peace.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

Offertory Hymn      NEH 32

- 1      **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.**
  
- 2      **O morning stars, together  
          Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
          And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
          And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.**
  
- 3      **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.**
  
- 4      **O holy child of Bethlehem,  
          Descend on us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
          Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
          The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
          Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks 1835-93

*During the Hymn the Priest receives the gifts. He offers the bread and wine to God.*

**STAND**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

*The Priest then says the Prayer over the Gifts*

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*In this prayer we give thanks to God for all he has done for us in Christ; by the Power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Christ; and we offer ourselves with Christ to the Father.*

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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Priest continues with the Preface, after which all say:*

**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.**

**KNEEL**

*The Priest continues with the Prayer of Consecration.*

*After the Words of Institution, when he has replaced the chalice on the altar and genuflected, the Priest says:*

The mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer with these words:*

. . . in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for  
ever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION RITE**

*We make our final preparation to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Priest invites all to join in the Lord's Prayer.*

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*As he begins to break the Bread, the Priest says:*

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one Bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us your peace.**

*The Priest then invites the people to Communion:*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say  
the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Those who are to receive Holy Communion or a Blessing come forward.*

## **Communion Hymn**    *NEH 22*

- 1    AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
  
- 2    The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**
  
- 3    Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

*Anonymous  
Philadelphia 1883*

## **CONCLUDING RITE** *STAND*

*The Priest says the Prayer after Communion. Then may be said the following prayer:*

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Priest gives the blessing and all respond:* **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Final Hymn**      NEH 26

- 1      **HARK! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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 host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.***
  
- 2      **Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.***
  
- 3      **Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:**

Charles Wesley 1707–88  
and others

Copyright Acknowledgements:

*A Prayer Book for Australia*, Broughton Books, 1995

*The New English Hymnal*, The Canterbury Press, 1986

*The Australian Hymn Book*, HarperCollins, 1977

*Together in Song: Australian Hymn Book II*, HarperCollins, 1999