



# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (B)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

**A: 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.**

### Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

### Introduction

L: Happy New Year! As we begin our year, we are still in the Christmas Season (remember the "Twelve Days of Christmas"?) and this Sunday we continue to think about the birth of Jesus – but in a much more reflective way. Today we are not just thinking about the story of what happened in Bethlehem, but *what it means*. We step back, to see those events in the context of God's timeless plan of salvation. Let us pray that we may open our minds and hearts to understand what God has done for us in sending his Son, and acclaim his glory as the angels did on the night of his birth, saying:

### Gloria

**A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.**

### Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

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.

**A: Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Gospel Reading

*John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Reflection

For a lot of people Christmas is over and done by now: perhaps you are back to work or school tomorrow, and Christmas decorations are back in their boxes already! But in Church we continue to meditate on the mystery of Jesus' birth, today doing so with the great Prologue to Saint John's Gospel. It deliberately echoes the book of Genesis, by saying "In the beginning..." Saint John is inviting us to see a "new beginning" in the coming of Jesus, referred to as "the Word." In this new creation, we human beings can become something new ourselves, because of the Word living among us: what we are called to do is "to accept him" and "believe in him." As we begin a New Year, perhaps with resolutions for this year still in mind, let us try more and more to accept and believe in Jesus, so that we too may live as children of God. Christmas continues for another week, so keep thinking about what the birth of Jesus means for you, today.

## **For our Younger Friends**

Yes, it's still Christmas! We are still thinking about Jesus coming into our world, and what his birth in Bethlehem means for us all these centuries later. Our Gospel reading today is a bit complicated, and you may need some help understanding it: it is all about Jesus coming from God to live with us. Have you ever had a guest come and live with you for a few days or weeks – perhaps a relative or friend? Did you have to change your routine, or behave differently? If Jesus is living with us now, what does that mean for our lives? What things should we do – and what shouldn't we do – when Jesus is living with us? Have a think this week about the difference that Jesus – the Word – makes in our lives as he comes to live with us.

*If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.*

## **Profession of Faith**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Intercessions**

L: We continue to be filled with joy and hope at the coming of God's Word to take our flesh and live with us. Confident of the presence of Jesus when we gather in prayer, let us offer our intentions.

L: In this New Year we pray for good things for all peoples, especially those facing troubles, danger, fear or conflict. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

L: Let us pray that we will do our best in this coming year to show the light of Christ to a needy world. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

L: Let us pray for Pope Francis and the whole Church, that we may constantly proclaim the love of God. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for our families and friends, and all our parishioners, that the New Year may bring us all blessings. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.*

## **THE COMMUNION RITE**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

L: Sanctify, O Lord, the prayers 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.

**A: Amen.**

### **Before Spiritual Communion**

L: Loving Father, on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, Jesus your Word has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom. To complete this mystery of salvation, at the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the

gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

### **Spiritual Communion**

**A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

*Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.*

### **Thanksgiving Psalm**

L: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

**A: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

L: O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed the children within you.

**A: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

L: He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command.

**A: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

L: He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees.

**A: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

## **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

### **Final Prayer and Blessing**

L: Let us pray.

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.

**A: Amen.**

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**A: Amen.**

L: Let us bless the Lord!

**A: Thanks be to God!**