

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

**COLLECT**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the Prophet Micah.  
Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

**R:** *Bring us back, O God;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the stock your right hand has planted,  
the son you have claimed for yourself. **R.**
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have  
you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have  
taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your  
will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure  
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings'  
(these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold,  
I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order  
to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified  
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Luke 1:38

**R:** *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;  
let it be to me according to your word.

**R:** *Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL** Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,  
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and  
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,  
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the  
Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you  
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is  
this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the  
baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed  
that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from  
the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,  
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,  
just as he filled with his power  
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,  
we pray, almighty God,  
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,  
so we may press forward all the more eagerly  
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Amen.*